



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS (PROOF)

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 26 August 2025

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TUESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2025

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Pat Weir, Condamine) read prayers and took the chair.



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I acknowledge the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people of this state and their elders past, present and emerging. I also acknowledge the former members of this parliament who have participated in and nourished the democratic institutions of this state. Finally, I acknowledge the people of this state, whether they have been born here or have chosen to make this state their home and whom we represent to make laws and conduct other business for the peace, welfare and good government of this state.

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from Her Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 30 June 2025

A bill for an Act to amend the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021, the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Economic Development Act 2012, the Local Government Act 2009, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the Electricity Act 1994, the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the Payroll Tax Act 1971 and the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

30 June 2025

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 30 June 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 30 June 2025.


PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Murrumba, Apology




Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.32 am): A media release was issued by my office on 28 July regarding budget estimates. The media release contained factual information, which was elicited during the public estimates hearing. However, on reflection, elements of the media statement may have reflected on the offices of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Reflecting on those parliamentary officers was not my or my office's intention and I would never do so intentionally. As such, as outlined to you in correspondence dated 29 July, I unreservedly apologise and withdraw those elements of the media release that may have reflected on the offices of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Comments by Member for Morayfield, Apology

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (9.32 am): I refer to my line of questioning during the public estimates hearings on 28 July in respect of communications Executive Government has with the Office of the Speaker. For the avoidance of doubt, I advise the House that my line of questioning was in respect of the potential actions and behaviours of members of the Executive Government and not of the Speaker or the Office of the Speaker. I submit that the phrasing of the question should have been better articulated and formed in an appropriate manner.


As a former temporary speaker, I respect and value the institution of the role of Speaker. As outlined in my correspondence to you on 29 July, I unreservedly and sincerely apologise and withdraw any imputation regarding the Speaker and the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Alleged Unauthorised Disclosure of Committee Documents, Apology

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (9.33 am): During the debate on the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 on 10 June, I may have disclosed information from internal Governance, Energy and Finance Committee matters that were not authorised by the committee to be disclosed. I withdraw my comments unreservedly and apologise unreservedly to the committee and the House.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


Absence of Members

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Woodridge that he will be absent from the House from 26 to 28 August, inclusive of those dates. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Nudgee that she will be absent from the House from 26 to 28 August, inclusive of those dates. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.


APPOINTMENTS

Panel of Temporary Speakers

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with standing order 11, I advise that I have discharged Mr Marty Hunt, the member for Nicklin, from the panel of temporary speakers and appointed Mr James Lister, the member for Southern Downs, to the panel.


ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Presentation to Governor

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to inform the House that Her Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive the address-in-reply at Government House on Monday, 22 September 2025 at 4.15 pm. I invite all honourable members to accompany me on the occasion of its presentation. The attendants will be circulating a list in the chamber for members to indicate if they will be attending and if transport is required. Cars will depart the porte-cochere at 3.35 pm sharp to convey members to Government House and return. Members wishing to proceed to Government House using their own transport should aim to arrive by 3.55 pm to join other members.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in the estimates hearings on 29 July 2025, I referred the member for Morayfield and the Leader of the Opposition to the Ethics Committee in relation to two matters regarding imputations against the Speaker. I draw these referrals to the attention of the House and note that standing order 271 now applies to both.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Wishart State School in the electorate of Mansfield and Glass House Mountains State School in the electorate of Glass House.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petitions, lodged and sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Maryborough, Mobile Lifeblood Donation Unit

Mr Barounis, from 6,173 petitioners, requesting the House to cause the introduction of a mobile life blood donation unit in the Maryborough region.

Maryborough-Boonooroo Road, Speed Limit

Mr Barounis, from 417 petitioners, requesting the House to alter the speed limit on Maryborough-Boonooroo Road.

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petitions, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk—

Flying Fox Roost Management Framework

1,117 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Queensland Flying Fox Roost Management Framework to ensure residents are able to repel flying fox plagues using realistic and feasible methods.

Teewah Airfield

3,368 petitioners, requesting the House allow the Teewah Airfield to remain in its current configuration; including use by emergency services and for evacuations, helicopter training, and recreational sports aviation clubs.

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Gender-Affirming Health Care

Ms Boyd, from 9,704 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to protect and expand gender affirming healthcare for Queenslanders.

Mount Isa, Copper Smelter

Mr Katter, from 3,443 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the copper smelter in Mount Isa is not permitted to be closed, and a willing miner is immediately installed to realise Queensland's abundant copper resource.

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the Clerk—

Dash Cameras

35 petitioners, requesting the House to ban dash cams from being used or sold in the state of Queensland.

Public Transport; 50-Cent Fares

1,899 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce and pass a law to make 50 cent fares for all public transport permanent.

Noise Detection Cameras

114 petitioners, requesting the House to end the trial of the noise detection cameras.

Schuler, Mr B, Coronial Inquest

4,941 petitioners, requesting the House to cause a coronial inquest into the disappearance of Bruce Gavin Schuler.

Upper Dawson, Infrastructure

295 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a new city in the Upper Dawson area of Queensland; build a train line between Springsure (Emerald) and Roma, directly linking Roma to Gladstone Sea Port; and build an aqueduct system connecting the state's northern rivers to the new city in the Upper Dawson.

Tablelands Regional Council

856 petitioners, requesting the House to formally investigate Tablelands Regional Council over allegations of misconduct in relation to the Patrick English Pavilion, Malanda.

Monduran, Renewable Energy Battery Storage Facility

1,629 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the development proposal by Iberdrola for the purpose of a renewable energy battery energy storage facility located at Monduran Dam Road, Monduran.

Legal Tender

2,953 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate cash as a payment option at all Queensland Rail ticket offices, council parking meters and ticket purchases for community events.

Citizen Initiated Referenda

920 petitioners, requesting the House to bring in citizen-initiated referenda.

Shark Control

1,955 petitioners, requesting the House to stop any new shark net or drum line plans and transition away from these harmful practices.

Housing; Short-Term Rentals

1,048 petitioners, requesting the House to limit all short-term rentals to places where the owner of the property is actually living and staying in the property and doing a bed and breakfast service.

Spencer, Dr J

6,729 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the reinstatement of Dr Jillian Spencer to her position of Senior Staff Specialist at the Queensland Children's Hospital.

Multiperson Vehicle Lanes

618 petitioners, requesting the House to relieve congestion on major roads by implementing multi-person vehicle lanes either permanently or during morning and afternoon peak hours.

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

30 June 2025—

- [830](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (New South Wales Bar Association Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 69
- [831](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (New South Wales Bar Association Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 69, explanatory notes
- [832](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (New South Wales Bar Association Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 69, human rights certificate
- [833](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Western Australian Bar Association Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 70
- [834](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Western Australian Bar Association Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 70, explanatory notes
- [835](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Western Australian Bar Association Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 70, human rights certificate
- [836](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 71
- [837](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 71, explanatory notes
- [838](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 71, human rights certificate
- [839](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Victorian Bar Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 72
- [840](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Victorian Bar Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 72, explanatory notes
- [841](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Victorian Bar Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 72, human rights certificate
- [842](#) Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW): The New South Wales Bar Association Professional Standards Scheme
- [843](#) Professional Standards Act 1997 (WA): The Western Australian Bar Association Professional Standards Scheme
- [844](#) Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW): The Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand Professional Standards Scheme
- [845](#) Professional Standards Act 2003 (Vic): The Victorian Bar Professional Standards Scheme
- [846](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Pharmacists' (Version 8)
- [847](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Pharmacists—Community pharmacy chronic conditions management pilot' (Version 1)

3 July 2025—

- [848](#) Letter, dated 3 July 2025, from the Speaker, Hon. Pat Weir, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, regarding the Speaker's proposed travel to Nauru to attend the Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference

9 July 2025—

- [849](#) Letter, dated 13 March 2025, from the Chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee and the member for Nicklin, Mr Marty Hunt MP, to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Hon. Deb Frecklington, regarding the Crime and Corruption Commission funding proposal
- [850](#) Document, undated, titled 'Attorney-General's response to the Crime and Corruption Commission funding proposal'
- [851](#) Letter, dated 13 March 2025, from the Chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee and the member for Nicklin, Mr Marty Hunt MP, to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Hon. Deb Frecklington, regarding the Office of the Information Commissioner funding proposal
- [852](#) Document, undated, titled 'Attorney-General's response to the Office of the Information Commissioner funding proposal'
- [853](#) Letter, dated 13 March 2025, from the Chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee and the member for Nicklin, Mr Marty Hunt MP, to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Hon. Deb Frecklington, regarding the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner funding proposal
- [854](#) Document, undated, titled 'Attorney-General's response to the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner funding proposal'
- [855](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to a paper petition (4255-25) presented by the member for Springwood, Hon. de Brenni, and an ePetition (4224-25) sponsored by the member for Springwood, Hon. de Brenni, from 30 and 681 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to deliver safety and congestion upgrades on Mount Cotton Road

10 July 2025—

- [856](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an ePetition (4234-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 6,870 petitioners, requesting the House to provide the reasons why the dataset and biospecimens from the Queensland COVID-19 Vaccination Safety and Efficacy Trial, the QoVax, program, are not being lawfully retained
- [857](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an ePetition (4225-25) sponsored by the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman, from 919 petitioners, requesting the House to halt all drilling in Dittmer/Kelsey Creek in the Whitsundays

11 July 2025—

- [858](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 11, 58th Parliament—Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025
- [859](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 5, 58th Parliament—Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025
- [860](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 8, 58th Parliament—Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025

14 July 2025—

- [861](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4186-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,187 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce legislation that full-time work is four days per week for Queensland residents

15 July 2025—

- [862](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Trade and Investment Mission to Japan and South Korea by the Minister for Primary Industries, Hon. Tony Perrett, 4-15 June 2025

17 July 2025—

- [863](#) Letter, dated 16 July 2025, from the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, and extract from Queensland Government Gazette No. 49, dated 1 July 2025, regarding an approved payment by WorkCover Queensland to the Office of Industrial Relations, in 2025-26

22 July 2025—

- [864](#) Response from the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism (Hon. Simpson), to an ePetition (4244-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 906 petitioners, requesting the House to condemn the actions of the government of Israel for its actions in Gaza
- [865](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on overseas Trade Mission to the Los Angeles, Boston, Washington DC and Dallas Fort Worth by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, 12-22 June 2025

23 July 2025—

[866](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4249-25) sponsored by the member for Nudgee, Hon. Linard, from 1,810 petitioners, requesting the House to call on the Government to deliver on its election commitment that funding for the Environmental Defenders Office would continue

[867](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie), to a paper petition (4264-25) presented by the member for Springwood, Hon. de Brenni, and an ePetition (4215-25), sponsored by the member for Springwood, Hon. de Brenni, from 91 and 1,850 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prioritise community safety by maintaining and appropriately staffing our local police beats and stations

[868](#) Queensland Police Service—Dangerous Attachment Devices 2024-25

24 July 2025—

[869](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an ePetition (4245-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,340 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures regarding the governance and operations of the Townsville City Council

[870](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4248-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 939 petitioners, requesting the House to instruct MPs and in particular ministers to stop blocking voters on social media and to resume answering all emails

[871](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4219-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 799 petitioners, requesting the House to have safety barriers fitted to all buses in Queensland and declare all buses unroadworthy and cancel the buses registration until such time as the barriers are fitted

[872](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4220-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 228 petitioners, requesting the House to address safety concerns arising from heavy vehicles using the road bridge after Redbank train station

[873](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4221-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 604 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure it is a legal requirement for all bus companies providing Translink routes to have a GPS unit fitted with the bus routes

25 July 2025—

[874](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 9, 58th Parliament—Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025

[875](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 10, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 29 April 2025

[876](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 11, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 20 May 2025

[877](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an ePetition (4212-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 164 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the Riverlink medical and urgent care centre provide online services to order scripts

[878](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to Nauru by the Speaker, Hon. Pat Weir, to attend the 54th Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference, July 2025

[879](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4216-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 136 petitioners, requesting the House to install traffic lights at the intersection of Collingwood Drive and Woodlinks Way, Collingwood Park

[880](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4217-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 272 petitioners, requesting the House to connect existing bike paths and bike lanes in Ipswich

28 July 2025—

[881](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Professional Indemnity Insurance) Regulation 2025 made by the Ministerial Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories

[882](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Professional Indemnity Insurance) Regulation 2025 made by the Ministerial Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories, explanatory notes

[883](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Professional Indemnity Insurance) Regulation 2025 made by the Ministerial Council under section 245 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories, human rights certificate

[884](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4252-25), sponsored by the member for Maryborough, Mr Barounis, from 361 petitioners, requesting the House to change the speed limit from 100 km to 80 km, in both directions, at the intersection of Gympie Street and Bruce Highway, Torbanlea

30 July 2025—

[885](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads: Maritime Safety Queensland—Marine Incidents in Queensland, 2024

[886](#) Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust—Annual Report year ended 30 April 2025

31 July 2025—

- [887](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 2, 58th Parliament—Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, interim government response

4 August 2025—

- [888](#) Letter, dated 4 August 2025, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Hon. Deb Frecklington, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing a report, dated 20 July 2025, by Dr Kirsty Wright, Dr Lauren Wilson and Ms Alison Sears, titled 'Review of Operational Matters at Forensic Science Queensland'
- [889](#) Report, dated 20 July 2025, by Dr Kirsty Wright, Dr Lauren Wilson and Ms Alison Sears, titled 'Review of Operational Matters at Forensic Science Queensland'

5 August 2025—

- [890](#) Letter, dated 5 August 2025, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Hon. Deb Frecklington, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing a report, dated 20 July 2025, by Dr Bruce Budowle, titled 'Independent Review of Operational Matters at Forensic Science Queensland and Recommendations for Foundational Reform—Based on Specified Terms of Reference'
- [891](#) Report, dated 20 July 2025, by Dr Bruce Budowle, titled 'Independent Review of Operational Matters at Forensic Science Queensland and Recommendations for Foundational Reform—Based on Specified Terms of Reference'

8 August 2025—

- [892](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 6, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 29 April 2025
- [893](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 9, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 March 2025 and 24 June 2025

12 August 2025—

- [894](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 10, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 2 April 2025 and 24 June 2025

15 August 2025—

- [895](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 12, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 March 2025 and 29 April 2025
- [896](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 10, 58th Parliament—Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025
- [897](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 7, 58th Parliament—Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025
- [898](#) Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee: Report No. 3, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates
- [899](#) Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee: Report No. 3, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [900](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 8, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates
- [901](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 8, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [902](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 11, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates
- [903](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 11, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [904](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 12, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates
- [905](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 12, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [906](#) Document, dated 15 August 2025, from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, Hon. Dale Last, regarding an extension notice for the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme under the Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011
- [907](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 11, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates
- [908](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 11, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [909](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 6, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates
- [910](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 6, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [911](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 13, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates
- [912](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 13, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [913](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 12, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates
- [914](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 12, 58th Parliament—2025-26 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

18 August 2025—

[915](#) Queensland Police Service: Annual Report for Assumed Identity Authorisation and Use—2024-2025

19 August 2025—

[916](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (CPA Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 101

[917](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (CPA Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 101, explanatory notes

[918](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (CPA Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2025, No. 101, human rights certificate

[919](#) Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW): The CPA Australia Professional Standards Scheme

[920](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Trade Mission to Taiwan and Japan by the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, 12-19 July 2025

22 August 2025—

[921](#) Department of Energy and Climate—Annual Report (1 July 2024-1 November 2024)

[922](#) Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission—Annual Report 2023-24

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Planning Act 2016:

[923](#) Planning (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 56

[924](#) Planning (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 56, explanatory notes

[925](#) Planning (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 56, human rights certificate

District Court of Queensland Act 1967, Magistrates Courts Act 1921, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

[926](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 57

[927](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 57, explanatory notes

[928](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 57, human rights certificate

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[929](#) Land (Net Present Value) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 58

[930](#) Land (Net Present Value) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 58, explanatory notes

[931](#) Land (Net Present Value) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 58, human rights certificate

Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004:

[932](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 59

[933](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 59, explanatory notes

[934](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 59, human rights certificate

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019:

[935](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025, No. 60

[936](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025, No. 60, explanatory notes

[937](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025, No. 60, human rights certificate

Disability Services Act 2006:

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[939](#) Disability Services (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 61, explanatory notes

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Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024:

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Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017:

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[951](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 65, explanatory notes

[952](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 65, human rights certificate

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018:

[953](#) Plumbing and Drainage Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025, No. 66

[954](#) Plumbing and Drainage Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025, No. 66, explanatory notes

[955](#) Plumbing and Drainage Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025, No. 66, human rights certificate

Biosecurity Act 2014:

[956](#) Biosecurity (Varroa Mite) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 67

[957](#) Biosecurity (Varroa Mite) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 67, explanatory notes

[958](#) Biosecurity (Varroa Mite) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 67, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

[959](#) Fisheries Legislation (Sea Cucumbers) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 68

[960](#) Fisheries Legislation (Sea Cucumbers) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 68, explanatory notes

[961](#) Fisheries Legislation (Sea Cucumbers) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 68, human rights certificate

Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

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[970](#) Disability Services Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2025, No. 76

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[973](#) Evidence Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 77

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[977](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 78, explanatory notes

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[979](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 79, explanatory notes

City of Brisbane Act 2010, Economic Development Act 2012, Local Government Act 2009, Planning Act 2016:

[980](#) Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 80

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Public Trustee Act 1978:

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Economic Development Act 2012:

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State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971:

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Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024:

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Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018:

Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 88

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Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

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Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2003:

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Environmental Protection Act 1994:

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Water Act 2000:

- Water Plan (Pioneer Valley) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2025, No. 95
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- Water Plan (Burdekin Basin) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2025, No. 97
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- Water Plan (Calliope River Basin) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2025, No. 99
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- Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2025, No. 100
- Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2025, No. 100, explanatory notes
- Water Plan (Boyne River Basin) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2025, No. 100, human rights certificate

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- Supreme Court of Queensland Regulation 2025, No. 102
- Supreme Court of Queensland Regulation 2025, No. 102, explanatory notes
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District Court of Queensland Act 1967:

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Cremations Act 2003:

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Acts Interpretation Act 1954, Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, Mineral Resources Act 1989, Regional Planning Interests Act 2014:

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Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024:

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Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002:

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REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by Her Excellency the Governor, viz—

Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Amendments made to Bill

Clause 22 (Insertion of new s 91D)—

At page 41, line 12—

Omit—

‘Constitution of Queensland Act 2001’

Insert—

‘Constitution of Queensland 2001’

MOTION

Citizen’s Right of Reply



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.40 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That the House notes report No. 237 of the Ethics Committee tabled on 27 June 2025 and the recommendation of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*, and
2. That the House adopt the committee’s recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Motion agreed to.

RESPONSE BY MS SUSAN LYNCH TO STATEMENTS MADE BY THE MEMBER FOR STAFFORD, MR JIMMY SULLIVAN MP, ON 22 MAY 2025

On 22 May 2025 during debate on a motion, the Attorney-General initially referred to me in a way that I was readily identifiable as ‘one woman in the Labor Party who worked for the previous member for Stafford’ and later in her speech as ‘Ms Lynch’.

After I was readily identifiable by the Attorney-General, the member for Stafford interjected and said, 'She's a liar'.

This statement by the member for Stafford has caused injury to my privacy and negatively impacted my personal and professional reputation.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Emerald Community Cabinet



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.41 am): Our government is delivering a fresh start for Queensland. Ten months ago Queensland voted for change after a decade of decline under Labor—a decline in the number of people who could get into the hospital, a decline in the number of people who felt safe in their home, a decline in the number of people who could afford to keep a roof over their head. For the last 10 months our government has focused on delivering, and we promised to deliver for all Queenslanders, no matter where they lived in our great state.

That is why this month we took our cabinet team to the town of Emerald—to hear directly from local residents, farmers, small businesses, stakeholders and more. It was the first time cabinet had visited Emerald in over a decade. Our government is backing regional Queensland and giving communities a voice after being ignored by Labor for too long. More than 150 residents took part. We talked about jobs, housing, infrastructure, the beef industry, biosecurity, small businesses, local government, education and regional road networks, just to name a few.

We are already delivering for Queenslanders in this part of the state. Our new \$100 million Country Roads Connect program will help make regional roads safer and strengthen the connections between our regional communities. Minister Mickelberg and I joined local member Sean Dillon to announce that the Wyntoon-Springton Road upgrade will be one of 22 projects funded under the program. The project will boost road safety and access to shops, schools and services. It will boost opportunities for producers and businesses across the Central Highlands region. The housing minister was also proud to announce the School Lane housing project.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am not sure why they have found their voice about Emerald after 10 years. They are now speaking about it. They would not be able to point to it on a map, but they can point to the member. There we go.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan, did you just hear me? Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: At its heart, community cabinet is about listening to Queenslanders. It is about hearing their priorities and delivering safer, stronger and better connected communities right across our state. I again thank those who took the time to share their ideas with us as well as the local MP in Emerald to help us ensure we shape a better future for the Central Highlands region.

Veterans and Veterans' Families Strategy




Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.43 am): <I am proud to serve as the Minister for Veterans in the government. Veterans and their families play an important role in our state's history. Here in Queensland, we have the largest population of veterans in the country—163,000 current and former ADF personnel call our state home—however, we are currently the only state without a dedicated veterans strategy. Our government will change that by developing Queensland's first veterans strategy. Most importantly, it will be the nation's first strategy that is dedicated to veterans and veterans' families. The strategy will identify how we can best support our veterans. It will also guide our implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. Importantly, the strategy will be informed by engagement with veterans and the ex-service community. We want their knowledge and their perspectives to shape this strategy. We want to hear about issues such as transitioning to civilian life, employment opportunities and health and wellbeing so we can improve their experience both during and after their service.

I was proud to launch this in Townsville earlier this month as part of the VP80 event. Townsville came alive over four days to commemorate 80 years since victory in the Pacific and the end of World War II. The community paid a fitting tribute to the sacrifices of our World War II veterans while celebrating Townsville's proud garrison history. These commemorations remind us of the profound debt we owe to those who have served our nation. They are testament to our shared history, our enduring

gratitude and our commitment to supporting not only the veterans but also the families who support them now and into the future.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.45 am): Ten months ago Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and I can say that the Crisafulli government is delivering the generational infrastructure that those opposite never could. We have had 10 months of LNP delivery versus 10 years of Labor decline. In our first 10 months in office, Queenslanders have seen what is possible when they have a government that is not only delivery focused but also not distracted by the chaos and crisis that plagued our predecessors in their decade of decline. The Labor Party oversaw the decline of our justice system, the chaos of the health and hospital system and the crisis of budget blowouts and mismanagement, which meant that essential projects became undeliverable, including Homes for Queenslanders. That is Labor's legacy.

The Crisafulli government, through its 2032 Delivery Plan, is delivering a real legacy for all Queenslanders and getting the Olympic and Paralympic Games back on track. I was at St George last week with the local member, the member for Warrego, where we addressed south-west and central west mayors. It is exciting that those mayors and those communities are now excited about what 2032 could deliver for regional Queensland, not just South-East Queensland.

Since this House last sat, there has been significant progress in the delivery of the games infrastructure, with the government hitting a number of key milestones in the lead-up to the 2032 games. The first of these milestones was the industry briefing undertaken by GIICA last month, which was attended by more than 1,500 businesspeople from Queensland and around the world who were invited to express their interest in working and partnering with the Crisafulli government to deliver key games venues. I am pleased to reveal that, following the briefing, more than 250 registrations of interest for the venue program were received as well as 20 expressions of interest to deliver an integrated master plan for the Victoria Park precinct, demonstrating the confidence that the private sector has in the Crisafulli government's vision for the games and beyond.

GIICA has also released an EOI for a specialised delivery partner who will support it in providing a broad range of program management services which are critical for a successful games. Some 48 submissions for the delivery partner have been received, and GIICA is anticipating engaging a successful applicant by the end of this year. Meanwhile, early works will be commencing to transform the Brisbane Showgrounds for 2032 and beyond, including restoration works on two heritage-listed grandstands and progressing plans for a 20,000-seat main arena upgrade. This is all part of the Crisafulli government's plan to secure the future of the RNA and the Ekka for generations to come.

I can also announce in this House for the first time that just last week I signed a new intergovernmental agreement with the Commonwealth government which will jointly fund the infrastructure for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Crisafulli government—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. Many said it was not possible, particularly for me, to sign a deal with the federal Labor government. It was possible, and we did it. The Crisafulli government did it. We have been able to work with our counterparts in Canberra proactively and productively to get this deal done. Queenslanders expect all levels of government to put politics aside—and I did—in the national interest and in the interests of the people of Queensland. That is what we have done: we have negotiated in good faith with the federal government to deliver the outcomes that Queenslanders deserve.

Mrs Frecklington: Something they couldn't do.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable Attorney-General. The federal government, the Albanese government, could not have made it clearer that they have full confidence in the Crisafulli government's plan to deliver a world-class games and infrastructure for 2032. It does beg the question, though: if federal Labor can get on board with our delivery plan, why can't Queensland state Labor? I will tell you why, Mr Speaker. It is because they cannot bring themselves to admit that their shamolic plan was a total and utter failure and an embarrassment on the world stage. Labor equals decline, decay, destruction, chaos, crisis—still rotting from the core in the leadership they still have to this day.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to your ruling that you delivered to the House on 24 June this year in relation to the standing orders for ministerial statements. In that ruling you reminded members that their language should be calm and moderated and show self-restraint. I think the Deputy Premier is straying from your ruling. I ask you to ensure his ministerial statement is in accordance with standing orders.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We have not been here for a while, but I am sure you remember what 'order' means. Deputy Premier, you were probably straying into political attacks a little too far. Bring yourself back to your ministerial statement.

Mr BLEIJIE: We will wait for question time. In just 10 months since the election, the Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start that Queensland deserves after 10 long years of decline under those opposite. Speaking of delivery, the Crisafulli government saved the Mount Isa Rodeo by investing a million dollars into the Mount Isa Rodeo, which I attended with the honourable members in that area. Many people at the Mount Isa Rodeo said to me, 'If the Labor Party had been elected, do you reckon they could have saved the Mount Isa Rodeo?' I said it would be a lot of bull to think that.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel. Deputy Premier, I will ask you to withdraw that.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, if I have to call your name again you will be warned.

Forensic Science Queensland



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (9.52 am): What this state has been confronted with is one of the most shameful failures of governance in Queensland's history. The state's DNA testing regime, overseen by the former Labor government, was left in total disarray. After a decade of decline, we have spent the past 10 months delivering.

The Crisafulli government inherited a system riddled with contamination, extraordinary delays and results so unreliable that the very foundations of our justice system have been shaken. Put plainly and simply, the system collapsed under Labor's watch. Turnaround times for critical DNA samples had blown out to more than 400 days—more than a year for evidence in rape and major crime cases to be returned to police. In that time offenders remained on the streets, victims were left in limbo and courts were denied the evidence they needed to deliver justice. The backlog of untested rape kits alone grew from just 75 in 2023 to more than 500 by late 2024. These are not abstract statistics. These represent lives, families and communities denied the most basic right to timely justice.

The people of Queensland deserve better. That is why the Crisafulli government has acted decisively, with 10 months of delivery. Within the first week of taking office, we commissioned a comprehensive review of Forensic Science Queensland, led by Dr Kirsty Wright, then soon after commissioned former FBI forensic scientist Dr Bruce Budowle. Their findings were stark and they were confronting. Rather than bury our head in the sand, just as Labor chose to, we are focused on fixing their mess.

We have committed \$50 million to a two-year outsourcing program that will see thousands of DNA samples, including rape kits and major crime cases, being processed overseas to help clear the backlog. We are close to signing off on our outsourcing contracts and will be sending our first samples abroad shortly. Additionally, we committed \$6 million in our first 100 days to bolster the capacity of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to deliver faster justice for victims in Queensland. This process ensures police and prosecutors get the evidence they need and victims get the answers they deserve.

The fact is: justice delayed is justice denied. Under Labor, delays became the norm. Under the Crisafulli government, victims are being put back at the centre of the justice system where they rightfully belong. We are determined to repair the damage, restore integrity and ensure Queenslanders can once again trust that science will serve justice, not stand in its way.

Victims of Crime; Victims' Commissioner, Resignation



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.55 am): The Crisafulli government made Queenslanders a promise: we would deliver a fresh start, restore safety where you live and drive down the number of victims of crime. That is exactly what we are doing. For the first time in our state's history, Queenslanders have a dedicated Minister for Victim Support.

I am determined to ensure victims are no longer treated as an afterthought. Under the Crisafulli government, their rights are front and centre in the justice process. In our very first budget we delivered a record \$458 million for victims of crime. After 10 years of Labor decline, in just 10 months our investment is delivering: a nation-leading Victims Advocate Service; almost doubling support through Victim Assist Queensland; a statewide rollout of the community response program for victims; and our Youth Justice victims' register.

Right across Queensland we are listening directly to victims, we are listening to their families and we are listening to victim advocates. So far we have been to Cairns, Emerald, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Logan consulting on our nation-leading Victims Advocate Service—and we are not done. Tomorrow we will hear from victims on the Sunshine Coast, and on Thursday victims from Bundaberg, Maryborough and Hervey Bay will have the opportunity to share their stories and experiences in the development of the Victims Advocate Service.

Our budget has also funded the Victims of Crime Community Response program. It is now statewide. Our community response program puts frontline workers on the ground, in communities, following traumatic crime events to directly engage and support communities affected by distressing acts of crime. Our approach is in stark contrast to Labor's 10 years of decline and their failure to even fund the community response into the forwards.

I wish to update the House that the Victims' Commissioner has notified me of her resignation, effective from 23 September. The Crisafulli government has thanked Ms Beck O'Connor for her contribution as Queensland's first Victims' Commissioner. I wish to acknowledge Ms O'Connor's work as the Victims' Commissioner and her efforts to promote the Charter of Victims' Rights and advocacy on the issues affecting victims. In her time as Victims' Commissioner, Ms O'Connor raised awareness of victims' rights and ensured victims of crime have had a priority voice at the table.

The Crisafulli government is committed to putting victims of crime first. The Office of the Victims' Commissioner is critical to identifying systemic issues relating to victims and promoting and advocating for the rights of victims. Acting arrangements will be in place to ensure continuity of the important work that the Office of the Victims' Commissioner performs. The Crisafulli government will continue to put the rights of victims first and continue to deliver for Queenslanders.

Social and Affordable Housing



Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (9.58 am): Queenslanders expect a social housing system based around fairness and equity, targeted at helping those who need it most. Under Labor that was not the case, with new data revealing just how bad things got. While the social housing waitlist grew 81 per cent over their decade of decline, they gave up on properly managing our housing system.

Almost half of Queensland's public housing tenants went more than five years without having their rental eligibility checked; that is, 45 per cent of tenants were left unchecked while tens of thousands of vulnerable Queenslanders sat on the waitlist. Labor let high-income earners and even property owners live in social housing. At the same time, around a quarter of public housing tenants were paying far more in rent than they should have been. That is not fairness; that is failure.

This inequity is why our government restarted annual rent and eligibility checks for all public housing tenants on 1 July this year. The early results are shocking. More than 2,000 tenancy reviews have been commenced, which is around four per cent of our statewide total. Of our completed reviews: 76 tenancies have been identified as high-income earners living in social housing; nine households have been found to own property while living in public housing; almost one in four tenants was found to be paying too much rent under Labor—they have had their rent reduced immediately, in some cases by as much as \$70 a week; and 13 households are now paying full market rent after failing to provide income details.

These reviews are delivering fairness for Queensland taxpayers by taking action on cases like the North Queensland couple with a combined income of more than \$168,000 who were paying just \$187 a week in rent for public housing. They are delivering fairness for our tenants: hundreds of households that were overpaying their rent for years have now had their rent reduced immediately. This

is exactly why we brought rent reviews back. Labor let six-figure earners live in public housing while pensioners were paying too much. They failed to manage the homes they had and they built too few homes. An average of just 509 per year were delivered over their decade in power, barely a third of the rate at which our state's population grew. That is their record—a housing system mismanaged in every way.

Through restoring annual rent reviews the Crisafulli government is delivering a fairer public housing system for those who need it most. We have compassionately capped any identified rent increases at just \$15 per week per year while ensuring decreases are applied in full without any limits. For those who are no longer eligible, we are supporting their transition to the private market with bond loans, rental grants and other housing help. This is all backed by our record \$5.6 billion housing investment to deliver more social and community homes.

We are empowering our housing officers to do the job they signed up for: helping our most vulnerable Queenslanders with housing. I thank our teams at the Fortitude Valley, Emerald, Mackay, Rockhampton and Gladstone housing service centres, whom I have had the privilege of meeting in the last few weeks alone. The fantastic work they do and the feedback they have shared with me is greatly appreciated.

These are long overdue reforms. After 10 years of Labor decline, in just 10 months the Crisafulli government is delivering change to turn around Labor's housing crisis and give more Queenslanders a place to call home.

Budget



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (10.02 am): Last sitting week I handed down the Crisafulli government's first budget. It is a budget that honours our election commitments and lays the foundation for a fresh start after a decade of fiscal vandalism under the former government. It is the perfect example of the contrast between 10 years of decline and 10 months of delivery.

The budget: helps to ease the cost-of-living challenges facing Queenslanders; respects our public servants; funds services that would have ceased and jobs that would have ended under Labor; and saves infrastructure and projects that would have never been built. Our first budget invests in a stronger, more productive economy and lays the foundation for budget repair. Since June I have travelled the length and breadth of the state to share the importance of the budget with Queenslanders and to listen to them.

The government has been hard at work delivering for Queensland. We have acquired the Lockyer Energy Project from Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners, with stage 1 including up to 120 megawatts of gas-fired generation and the potential for up to a further 850 megawatts of capacity in stage 2. It is part of a \$5 billion investment from government owned corporations across the energy supply chain.

Our boost to the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee from \$1.4 billion to \$1.6 billion is backing an \$80 million overhaul of the C3 unit at Callide Power Station, one of the biggest maintenance projects in the state's history, after years of neglect by Labor. Round 1 of the Crisafulli government's Residential Activation Fund, doubled to \$1 billion in the budget, is unlocking the construction of thousands of new homes in all corners of the state. We fast-tracked restoration works for the Bribie Island breakthrough.

Since the Crisafulli LNP government's permanent 50-cent fares were introduced in February—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I cannot hear the Treasurer. Order!

Mr JANETZKI:—this key cost-of-living measure, fully funded by the Crisafulli government, has delivered savings to Queenslanders of almost \$200 million. Demand for the Crisafulli government's Play On! sports vouchers has been enormous since applications opened this month, with our \$200 vouchers helping Queensland families with the cost of their kids' sport.

Our Country Roads Connect program is investing \$100 million in upgrades to regional Queensland roads, funding upgrades to 22 projects to missing connection links and improving resilience along our rural and regional routes.

We are investing \$412 million in 2025-26 to start work on the historic \$9 billion Bruce Highway upgrade, with a dedicated program management office set up as part of the budget to oversee the safety upgrades.


The budget is delivering a boost for trades training in Central Queensland with a new TAFE excellence precinct being constructed in Rockhampton, funded with \$61.1 million over three years.

We are investing \$39.2 million in 53 diverse arts and cultural companies and festivals, supporting the arts sector and delivering engaging experiences for audiences across the state no matter where they may be.

I am pleased to say that cranes are now dominating the skyline at the Toowoomba Hospital, with work well underway to deliver a new hospital—as was promised—for the Darling Downs. We are building the hospital that Toowoomba deserves and was promised, something that never would have happened under those opposite.

These are just some of the many projects contained in the budget that demonstrate how the Crisafulli government is delivering. It is a budget that sets the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland.

Trade Mission, Taiwan and Japan

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (10.06 am): After a decade of Labor decline we are delivering a Queensland that is open for business, and the world is demanding Queensland's products and services. Last month I led a trade mission to Taipei, Tokyo and Osaka, speaking with trade partners about opportunities for Queensland exporters. While Labor presided over 10 years of decline in our international relationships, the Crisafulli LNP government has—

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone and member for Scenic Rim, stop your quarrelling across the chamber, please.

Ms BATES:—spent 10 months delivering for Queensland exporters, restoring our reputation for excellence, innovation and economic leadership. Thanks to our efforts Queensland is once again recognised as a serious player in international education, training, research and innovation sectors.

Our largest ever education and research delegation—37—to Japan and Taiwan secured outcomes for Queensland. We witnessed a landmark agreement between Brisbane-based Stralis Aircraft and two top Japanese universities, a partnership facilitated by TIQ and delivered under the Crisafulli LNP government. This deal positions Queensland as a global leader in aviation and advanced manufacturing.

In both Taiwan and Japan I led biotech roundtables with key stakeholders, arresting a decade of decline. We have spent 10 months delivering deeper collaborations between Queensland's research institutions and overseas partners in clinical trials, immunotherapy and medical technology. The collaboration we are fostering today will deliver future R and D and commercialisation partnerships for Queenslanders.


The Crisafulli LNP government is attracting more international students by showcasing our state as the leading study destination, connecting IET and R and I delegates with the region's top education agents and partners.

The Japanese leg was underpinned by the Crisafulli LNP government's newly delivered Queensland-Japan Trade and Investment Strategy 2025-2028—a clear guide for deepening ties with one of our most critical regional partners. This is the strategy we needed a decade ago but one we delivered in 10 months. Since November 2024 I have undertaken four trade missions to six major trading markets, strengthening international relationships and delivering opportunities for Queensland businesses. The past 10 months of delivery has included two visits to Japan—a deliberate attempt to repair Queensland's reputation with Japanese trading partners, reversing a decade of decline. We are well supported by TIQ commissioners in Japan and Taiwan—Tak Adachi and Juna Ferrett—and I am grateful for the support they and their teams provided on this mission.

We know that strong international relationships are essential to Queensland's success, and trade will underpin our plan to deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy. To build on what we have delivered in the past 10 months, we have backed TIQ with an additional \$5 million this financial year and an additional \$18 million over the next four years. We are focused on outcomes, not slogans, and delivering for Queenslanders. We are taking Queensland's best to the world and bringing these new

opportunities home. After a decade of decline under Labor, in 10 months we have delivered a Queensland that is open for business.

Health System

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.10 am): It is no secret that ambulance ramping at our hospitals deteriorated under the 10 years of decline of those opposite. Ramping performance is not just a number; it is people waiting too long to receive care, often in critical situations. The member for Waterford promised to reduce ramping to 28 per cent within 12 months of becoming health minister, and that promise was of course broken. The health system continues to suffer from Labor's broken promises.

We can expect today that Labor will try to distract from their decade of decline. If I get any questions today from those opposite—and I say 'if' because in four hours of estimates I did not get one question, so that would be a bonus—I imagine it will be about the Chief Health Officer appointment. What a surprise that might be. Labor have been trying to distract for weeks in relation to the Chief Health Officer recruitment process. They are trying their hardest, selling their little stories, trying to get a story up. Let me be very clear, in words that even those opposite can understand: the appointment of the Chief Health Officer is not considered by the cabinet.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I know that comes as a surprise to them, as they dipped their fingers into every aspect of life, but we are prepared to allow our departments to operate.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Bailey: Drowning, not waving.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, I just called for order.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection from the member for Miller. There was not one question from the member for Miller in four hours of estimates—not one. He is the most well resourced, laziest shadow health minister I have ever seen in this place.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I obviously take personal offence and ask the minister to withdraw.


Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the member has taken personal offence, and I would encourage you to come back to your policy statement, please.

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw. We know that there is no overnight fix to Labor's health crisis created over a decade of decline, and that is why we committed to reduce ambulance ramping below 30 per cent by 2028. Meeting this target will be a challenge—as we weather flu seasons; as Queensland's population grows; as federal Labor dithers on the National Health Reform Agreement, on GP payments and on providing aged-care homes; and as demand increases on our hospitals—but it is a challenge we are prepared to overcome.

After 10 years of Labor decline, we are already seeing positive results in just 10 months. Ramping at Bundaberg Hospital has improved by more than five percentage points over the past year, the rate at Hervey Bay Hospital has improved by almost seven percentage points, and in Central Queensland, where we have freed up another 10 beds, Rockhampton Hospital has seen ramping improve by over five percentage points. While there is a long way to go, these results clearly demonstrate the Crisafulli government's commitment to ensuring patients are seen sooner. It also means our hardworking paramedics are returning to the roads sooner. These green shoots are not by chance; they are thanks to the dedication of our frontline clinicians and the Crisafulli government's record \$33.1 billion investment in the health system. This includes building new and upgrading existing transit lounges.

Earlier this month I visited Ipswich Hospital to announce a new, almost \$10 million transit care centre that will double the capacity of the existing transit lounge when it is complete in June next year. When I was speaking to the executive director there, she said, 'This is an idea we have been talking about for over two years'—that was ignored by the previous government. We are funding it and implementing it right now. It is part of our \$55 million Patient Flow Rapid Response Fund. We are also investing a billion dollars in the Queensland Ambulance Service, a nation-leading \$1.75 billion in Surgery Connect and \$18.5 billion in our statewide Hospital Rescue Plan. There is a significant job but, after 10 years of decline under Labor, in 10 months the LNP Crisafulli government is getting on with the job.

Education

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (10.16 am): The Crisafulli government is continuing to deliver a fresh start for Queensland, with new initiatives to improve our education system. We developed these initiatives by listening to our educators, so if those in opposition have issues with the policy details then it suggests they are out of touch with the needs of our educators. It suggests that they like the sound of their own voices rather than listening to the people of Queensland.


Last week marked six months since the introduction of the successful Behaviour Boost initiative. It was with great pleasure that the Crisafulli government announced that the Behaviour Boost funding injection of \$45 million each year for state schools is now permanent. Preliminary reports show that schools are reporting positive responses in behavioural changes and improvements in their classrooms. I recently visited Humpybong State School with the hardworking local member, Kerri-Anne Dooley. In term 1 they appointed an officer to work with students showing initial signs of behaviour issues. Behaviour has improved in multiple metrics. Student disciplinary absences have more than halved, and behavioural matters have reduced by 30 per cent. These are excellent numbers. They have also seen improvements in the grades for both English and maths. I want to congratulate the principal, her staff and the whole school community.

The world around us is fast changing, and we are so delighted to lead the way in our public education system by supporting the integration of artificial intelligence in our schools. The Corella AI platform is a government owned generative AI tool designed specifically for Queensland state schools. It won the state award for the Australian Information Industry Association 2025 iAwards. I congratulate the Department of Education and their staff on this impressive achievement. The Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business attended these awards and advised me of their success, and together we attended an afternoon tea where we thanked our hardworking Public Service staff. I want to wish the department the best for the national awards that will be held on Thursday in Adelaide. We were very impressed at the interdepartmental camaraderie that was demonstrated in this project—public servants being proud to work for the Queensland government, not individual departments.

In education and the arts, Queenslanders can compare the 10 months of delivery of the Crisafulli government to the 10 years of Labor decline.

Mr SPEAKER: I advise the police minister that we are running the clock a bit so I will allow you just one minute. I encourage ministerial statements to stick closer to the clock.

Police Commissioner; Youth Crime

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.18 am): I will just cover two points. Firstly, I am delighted to inform the House that the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service, Steve Gollschewski, has won his battle against cancer and is itching to get back to work to continue his lifelong fight against crime. It was in February that he stepped away to take personal leave to focus on his health. He has shown strength and bravery, and his decision to return is a testament to his character. I am certain his strong mindset and steadfast sense of purpose played a role in his recovery. I also want to thank Acting Commissioner Shane Chelepy for stepping up into the role and for his dedication and commitment during a very busy seven months.

I would like to acknowledge a serious crime that was committed at the weekend on the Sunshine Coast—a sickening attack on a small business owner at Dicky Beach. It is unacceptable in our community. It is sickening and I share the victim's anger. I was in Caloundra with the local member just last week listening to business owners, who have been raising their ongoing concerns about crime. I spoke with some of my former teammates from the Sunshine Coast CPIU on Sunday morning who had worked around the clock to ensure all of the offenders by Sunday morning had been wrapped up and put before the court. Those offenders will now face Adult Crime, Adult Time. If this crime had been committed 10 months ago they would have been given a slap on the wrist, but they will now face consequences for their actions. Hopefully, I will have a chance to talk about that later today.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.20 am.

Chief Health Officer, Appointment



Mr MILES (10.20 am): My question is to the Premier. Today it has been confirmed that the Premier personally intervened to influence the director-general to terminate the appointment of Mr Hajkowicz as the Chief Health Officer. Can the Premier advise why his opinion held greater weight than the merit-based selection panel?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. It is a question about an extremely important role and we have seen over the years why that is the case. It is a forward-facing role, and that is important to acknowledge; we have to ensure that person is able to conduct themselves in that capacity. I have been asked before about my opinion on this, and I have given it, and I will do so today in the spirit of giving the Leader of the Opposition an answer to his question. However, I will make this point: I am not seeking to re-prosecute this because I want to respect the privacy of Dr Hajkowicz, of course, but I am going to make this—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Well, I do. Mr Speaker, you will see I am endeavouring to give the Leader of the Opposition an answer, but I am also trying to respect this person's privacy. I have been asked the question, so I have to give an answer. What is my view? My view is if an individual applied for a job a couple of years ago and pulled the pin after less than a couple of weeks, I do not believe that that person is the right person for a forward-facing role like this. I do not want to trash the gentleman's privacy, but I have been asked for my opinion, so I have to give the Leader of the Opposition a respectful answer that he deserves. I do not believe it would be in the interests of the state to have someone who has previously accepted the role and walked away from it to be given the role again. I do not think that would be a strange concept for anyone in any opportunity. I say so for two reasons—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have been asked a question. I want to give a fulsome answer and I am doing that.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is being responsive to the question.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I do not think that would be acceptable for two reasons: one is because of the importance of the job and the fact that it is so forward-facing, and the second is for the individual involved. Again, I am at pains to say I do not want to be making comment about him—I really do not—but I do believe in answering questions in this place.

Ms Pease: You actually have.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for Lytton. I am giving a response to a question. I have not sought to avoid this question. I have been asked it and I am giving a fulsome answer. This is not something I have volunteered; it is something the Leader of the Opposition has asked me, so I am giving an answer. I do not think it would be acceptable for the state to put the individual in a forward-facing role like this, and I do not think it would be right for him either. On both of those factors, I do not believe that Dr Hajkowicz is suitable for that role.

Chief Health Officer, Appointment

Mr MILES: My question is to the Deputy Premier. It has been reported that senior ministers, plural, inappropriately interfered in the appointment of Dr Hajkowicz as Chief Health Officer and today it was confirmed the Premier was one of them. Was the Deputy Premier the other?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This matter does not relate to the portfolio under the responsibility of the Deputy Premier. I would ask you to consider that.

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is correct that my question goes to actions taken by the Deputy Premier in his role as Deputy Premier, but he is also the Minister for Industrial Relations, responsible for the pay and conditions of all of our public servants, including the Chief Health Officer.

Mr SPEAKER: Just give me one second. There is some doubt about whether the question should be directed to the Deputy Premier, but I am sure he can handle the question. Deputy Premier, I will allow the question as asked and you can respond to it in your role.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to address the question. I thank the honourable opposition leader for the question. The member is right that I am responsible for the Industrial Relations Act, but I am not responsible for the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 which

is the honourable Minister for Health's responsibility, and my obligations do not extend that far from the Industrial Relations Act to that particular function.

However, having been given the opportunity, which I do not often get in this place for a question from the opposition, even if it is not related to my portfolio and nothing to do with me, I am happy to take the question in full authenticity and address the issues at hand. I would say to the honourable Leader of the Opposition that I entirely agree with not only the comments provided by the Premier just now in a very open and transparent manner but also the multitude of comments the Premier has given at press conferences, the comments the health minister has given at press conferences, and the ministerial statement the honourable health minister gave this morning.

More importantly, I am reminded of the CHO appointment and how important this role is for the state. I was asked at a press conference only a couple of weeks ago, 'What about the CHO appointment?' I said, 'The recruitment process is underway,' which is the case with the honourable health minister, but I also said, and it is the fact, that there is an acting arrangement in place, as is the case from time to time when a position is vacant.

I am also reminded of an article dated 28 October 2021 about when the honourable doctor in question was given the job and quit all but a few weeks later, when the opposition leader was in fact the then Deputy Premier of Queensland. I want to quote from this article a statement made by the opposition leader when he was Deputy Premier of the state of Queensland when he was asked about the importance of the CHO position, not having a CHO in place and 'is this not detrimental to the state not having a CHO' and the appointment process and what happened with this fellow who got the job and quit only a few weeks later. The then honourable Deputy Premier at the time—not me, him, the opposition leader—said this—

While the CHO is the person that everyone sees out there every day, there's massive teams behind them now and so there's plenty of people who know the systems, know how to provide the advice, make it all work, so I think it'll be fine.

In answer to the honourable Leader of the Opposition's question, may I quote him and copy his theme: it will be all fine, mate.

Victims of Crime

Mrs YOUNG: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier explain how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering to ensure justice for victims of crime, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that saw victims denied justice during a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for Redlands for the question. She mentioned ways that we are delivering for victims of crime. We talk about all things, from the way we police, the way we intervene and the laws that are in place, but I believe the honourable member is talking about the DNA laboratory. I sense the honourable member is asking about the failures in justice there, so that is where I will focus my answer to the question. At the heart of a fair justice system lies the ability for—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for McConnel.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is no interjection. I have not said one word.

Mr SPEAKER: I would recognise the member for McConnel's voice. I do not think it was her.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The Leader of the House has informed me it was the member for Pine Rivers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will reflect on the laughter of those opposite, if that is the case, and talk about a serious issue. I remember in December 2021 when a question was asked in this place about the DNA laboratory and I remember the answer. It was one of ducking, dismissal and saying that it belonged to someone else. That answer summed up 10 years. We then saw a conga line of ministers coming out and denying there was a problem. Then we had a situation where, as a result of failures in a lab, rapists and murderers walked the streets of this state—people who should have been behind bars.

What the honourable Attorney has done in such a short period is more than all of her predecessors—including those on rotation doing different roles—did over a long period of time. The honourable Attorney has commissioned two reports, and we will use those to drive the changes needed. I want to read a quote from a victim in the report by Dr Kirsty Wright. It states—

The delays in forensic DNA testing are not merely administrative—they have deeply harmful effects on victims, the integrity of justice, and community trust in the system.

Delays of this nature erode faith in our justice system and retraumatise victims who are already burdened with the weight of recovery.

The honourable Attorney has sought and secured \$50 million in investment to help deal with the backlog. For hundreds of days, innocent people have potentially had their perpetrators walking in the community. The honourable Attorney has secured funding and will deliver the funding. That is what good governments do: they prioritise and fund the things that are needed.

(Time expired)

Chief Health Officer, Appointment

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. Whistleblowers have told the opposition that Dr Hajkowicz's withdrawal from the role in 2021 was considered by the merit-based selection panel and he was still found to be the most meritorious applicant. Minister, why does the Crisafulli government think they know better than the independent panel?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the question as asked by the member for Waterford. She asked the question in the first person. I would ask you to consider that.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, I will allow you to rephrase the question.

Ms FENTIMAN: Let's have another go! I am happy to ask it again. My question is to the Minister for Health. Whistleblowers have told the opposition that Dr Hajkowicz's withdrawal from the role in 2021 was considered by the merit-based selection panel and he was still found to be the most meritorious applicant. Why does the Crisafulli government think they know better than the independent panel?

Mr NICHOLLS: I have to say, it is a delight to finally get a question from the opposition after all this time. The Deputy Premier and I feel positively neglected in respect of questions from those opposite. I did hear the member for Waterford say, 'Have another go'. I would say: that is your first go, so why don't you get it right the first time when you have a go, member for Waterford? The member for Waterford had a lot of chances to 'have a go'—have a go at reducing ambulance ramping, have a go at reducing the elective surgery waitlist—

An government member: Have a go at the leadership!

Mr NICHOLLS: Have a go at the leadership—exactly.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, that was unnecessary. You are warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: I might have another go myself, Mr Speaker! I reckon the member for Waterford will have another go and I reckon the member for Murrumbidgee will be finding out about it before too much longer. Christmas is coming! The killing season starts winding up over there. It will happen, do not worry. It will start. They are all looking over there. The member for Miller has a smile on his face. He knows what is coming. He can see it. He will be waiting for it. They will all be sitting over there—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I will ask you to come to the question, please.

Mr NICHOLLS: As I said in my ministerial statement, we knew what they were trying to do. After a decade of decline under Labor and after 10 months of delivery under a Crisafulli LNP government, the only thing Labor can do is try to drag someone's name through the mud.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The Minister for Health was asked about the independent panel and the appointment process. He has gone nowhere near that in the entirety of the time that has been allowed. I would ask you to draw him back to a relevant answer to the question.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to the fact that the member for Waterford, when she rephrased the question, had elements in there that were—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: You are warned, member for Lytton.

Dr ROWAN: When the member for Waterford rephrased her question there were elements that were not only potentially seeking opinion but also allowing the minister to compare and contrast when it comes to certain aspects that were sought by the member for Waterford in the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 43 seconds left to finish your answer. You heard the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: The appointment of the Chief Health Officer is undertaken in accordance with the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. It is undertaken by the chief executive of the department in accordance with the provisions of section—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are now warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: In accordance with section 45 of the act, the minister does not make that decision; it is made by the chief executive of the department, as are all appointments made in respect of those positions. That is the case in the position that is underway.

Forensic Service Queensland

Mrs KIRKLAND: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Can the Attorney outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is restoring faith in Queensland's forensic services, and is the minister aware of any approaches that saw these services compromised after a decade of decline?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the honourable member for Rockhampton for this very important question. As I have outlined in this House today, the Crisafulli government is delivering on behalf of victims and restoring integrity to the justice system. To say that the reports of Dr Budowle and Dr Kirsty Wright and the outcomes of those reports were shocking is a complete and utter understatement—to think that victims of crime were left waiting for over 400 days for their rape kits to be assessed by those failed former ministers that were rotated through. Shockingly, amongst the many pages of those reports we see that—I have read them and I can tell you—not only did we have rape kits being untested and unacceptable delays but, of course, there was interference by the former Labor ministers. They oversaw this debacle. What did they do?

In Dr Wright's report she noted that nearly a year after Labor provided outsourcing funding, nearly \$20 million—\$19.5 million to be exact—was suddenly approved to be repurposed. What was it repurposed funding to do? Was it repurposed to make sure that those victims who were waiting for their rape kits to be assessed—was that \$19.5 million repurposed to ensure that outsourcing was happening for those tests? Is that what happened? I say no, because the report notes it went to a new office building for management and staff plus equipment that is still sitting in unopened boxes. The question is: who made the call? Who sat in CBRC and said, 'No, no, let's not provide that money for outsourcing anymore. Let's change its purpose to a demountable,'—a demountable that now sits in the car park at FSQ as the office for those staff. Rather than fix the DNA debacle, they focused on a DNA demountable.

We know we have Fentiman's forensic failures, but this is unbelievable. Did Fentiman back Dick's demountable in CBRC? It certainly was not victims of crime in this great state. It is only the Crisafulli government that is delivering after a decade of decline.

Mr SPEAKER: I will remind the Attorney-General and all members to use correct titles.

Chief Health Officer, Appointment

Ms ENOCH: My question is to the Minister for Health. Given the CCC's recommendation that public sector appointments should have documented statements for why appointments have been rescinded, will the minister release the statement of reason provided to Dr Hajkowicz explaining why his offer of employment was rescinded?

Mr NICHOLLS: It is certainly surprising to get that question from the member for Algester, a well-known confederate of the former member for South Brisbane, whose actions led to the CCC report into the appointment of people and interference in the delivery of services by people who were being appointed to roles. Let us remember the protection racket that went on in relation to both the former member for South Brisbane and former Labor mate Peter Carne in relation to his appointment as the Public Trustee of Queensland. Let us remember the conga line of attorneys-general opposite who funded members to take legal action and refused to say how much it cost to go through that process so that the reports from the CCC could not see the light of day. We can remember those things. I can remember them because we asked questions about it every time—over a million dollars of taxpayers' money to stop a report by the CCC into interference by all of those members opposite. They all stood there—

Mrs Frecklington: Their heads are down now.

Mr NICHOLLS: Their heads are down. Their silence shows their complicity every time. One of the biggest backers of the member for South Brisbane, one of the fashionable adherents who followed her around everywhere she went and voted as she said, was the member for Algeester. She was always there. Now she has asked the question in relation to—

Mr Bleijie: Someone gets to ski in Whistler.

Mr NICHOLLS: Exactly. I take that interjection from the Deputy Premier. We all forgot the skiing in Whistler episode as well. We all forgot it, but we have not forgotten the member for Waterford's trip over there and the flight—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The minister knows this question is about the Chief Health Officer.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you heard the question previously. You still have one minute left.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I understood the question, it referred to the integrity reports that have been provided. I was contemplating and discussing what led to those integrity reports because we had the burning fire of integrity—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was clearly about the issuing of a statement of reason to Mr Hajkowicz in relation to the rescindment of his appointment to the Chief Health Officer position. There has been no relevance to that question in the member's answer.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the question that was asked I heard references within that with respect to the Trad report. The minister is being responsive to many aspects in relation to integrity and aspects with respect to the Crime and Corruption Commission. I would say that he is being relevant to the question as asked.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the House, that was contained within the question. Minister, you probably addressed that matter of the question fairly well. I would ask you in your remaining time to come back to the remaining part of the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, thank you for your commendation about how I addressed the question. I am certainly very grateful for it. I will endeavour to earn your approval in future answers as well.

As I say, the appointment of the Chief Health Officer is conducted in accordance with the Hospital and Health Boards Act. The sections of the act that I read out, sections 44F—

Mr Bailey: Release the report.

Mr NICHOLLS: I know the law is a little bit foreign to those opposite but the law sets out how it is to a happen. The appointment of the Chief Health Officer is done in accordance with the act.

Victims of Crime

Mr LISTER: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Can the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering a plan to put victims of crime first, and is the minister aware of any approaches that did not prioritise victims during a decade of decline?

Mrs GERBER: I want to thank the member for Southern Downs for his question because I know how important supporting victims of crime is to him. The Crisafulli government is delivering more support than ever before to victims of crime in this state. The member's question asked about approaches that have betrayed victims, and no more is this evident than in Labor's DNA debacle. Since early 2023 we have uncovered systemic contamination in relation to the DNA testing results. There have been victims of crime, victims of the most abhorrent crimes, waiting more than 400 days for testing, more than 400 days for DNA results, resulting in offenders being prevented from seeing justice served, resulting in those rapists walking our streets and preventing victims from having justice. That is the legacy of the Labor government. That is 10 years of decline under Labor.

What we have heard today—the other shocking truth that has been uncovered today—is that the former Labor government announced \$29.5 million to fix their DNA backlog and what did they do? They diverted almost \$20 million of that to build a building, to a demountable. They diverted the money that should have been going to the victims of their DNA debacle to an office building, so those victims did not receive the justice they deserved. Who made this decision? Who made the decision at the CBRC table to divert that funding? When they announced \$29.5 million to clear their backlog, who sat around

that CBRC cabinet table and made that decision? The worst minister for women sat at that CBRC table; she made that decision and it rests at their feet. Members opposite need to stand up and apologise for the way they have treated victims of crime in this state, for the way the victims of Labor's DNA debacle were treated under their government because they diverted funds that should have been going to dealing with the backlog.

The Crisafulli government is supporting the victims of Labor's DNA debacle. We have appointed a new expert team to overhaul forensic operations so that victims can finally get the justice that they deserve. My department has had conversations with the organisations that we fund to provide trauma support to those victims and their families, and they stand ready and willing right now to support the victims of Labor's DNA debacle. The Crisafulli government will always put victims first, but there are serious questions to be answered by those on that side of the House, particularly the former minister for women.

(Time expired)

Chief Health Officer, Appointment

Mr J KELLY: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister explain why the Chief Health Officer role was readvertised 23 minutes after questions were raised about the issue by the media?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. I think the member for Greenslopes would make an excellent shadow health minister. He has the experience, he is a former nurse, he cares about nurses and I have listened to his contributions many times in the chamber.

Government members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: No, he has not had dodgy emails that have gone left, right and centre. He has not made—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: No, no.

Mr SPEAKER: Order on both sides!

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I suspect from the comments that have been made on this side of the House that we support the member for Greenslopes doing the job, given he has made no rookie errors and no mistakes about issuing media releases that he thought he did not need to tell the former premier about or thought were not important to people about expenditure.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister's response goes beyond debating the question. It is now debating the member who has asked the question, so my point of order is on relevance. I would ask you to draw him back to an answer to this question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister, the point of order was on relevance. You have given a fairly glowing endorsement of the member for Greenslopes, so we will move back to the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, as you know, I like to give credit where it is due, and the member for Greenslopes has done that job. In fact, what I do find interesting is that he has asked me the question and not the shadow health minister, so obviously those on that side agree with me that they would rather have someone who understands, as the Minister for Education says, the World Wide Web and what that means, so he is on top of that as well.

As we know and as I have pointed out, the appointment of the Chief Health Officer is a function that is undertaken by the department. It is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the legislation and the procedures that are in place and have been in place since before this government came to power and, I suspect, since before the previous government came to power. They are the procedures that are followed in accordance with the legislation—as I have answered this question on many occasions in media inquiries and on other occasions—and that is the process that is being followed.

What we do want to ensure is that we have a Chief Health Officer who is aware of matters and is able to fulfil the role of Chief Health Officer. We are currently advertising for the role of Chief Health Officer, and I expect there to be good applicants in respect of that role and I expect the department will go through the normal process that this department has gone through to appoint others, whether that is the Chief Health Officer, the Chief Medical Officer, the Chief Nurse Officer or the chief therapy officer. There are many officers in the department and the department follows the same process time and time

and time again. That is the process that has been followed for the appointment of, I think it is now currently, three of five positions that are being filled in this regard.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms DOOLEY: My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister explain how the Crisafulli government is ensuring justice for victims of domestic violence, and is the minister aware of any approaches that delayed justice for victims?

Ms CAMM: Firstly, I would like to pay my respects to Carra Luke, who was tragically killed this week. My thoughts and those of the government are with her family, her friends and all of those who knew and loved her. I have received many messages, both personally and through my office. She was a child health nurse who had administered many immunisations to young families throughout the course of her life. I also draw the House's attention to the Red Rose Rally, which will be held outside this Thursday, 28 August, at 12.45. I encourage all members to attend.

I thank the member for the question. The member was not in this House during the previous term and I would like to remind both her and many members in this House of previous questions that the now government asked of the former minister, in particular with regard to domestic and family violence and sexual violence. Under those opposite, the experience of young women was horrific. I recall a question that I asked the former health minister back in October 2023. At that time I had been contacted by a mother whose daughter had been raped in Rockhampton. She sat in a waiting room at a hospital and was told to go home and take photos of her injuries because there was no-one available or qualified to conduct a rape kit. We raised that in this House. The then health minister, through the HHS, sent a text message to apologise to that young woman and made a commitment to me in this House that she would meet with the young woman and hear of her experience firsthand, because she would fix it. That was her record—she would fix it. The meeting with that young woman was cancelled because the then health minister, the member for Waterford, decided to put her hand up for the leadership. Instead of meeting a victim of rape and instead of bringing justice, she was too busy—

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. I did meet with that young woman and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: You have taken personal offence?

Ms FENTIMAN: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Ms CAMM: I withdraw. Under the member for Waterford and those opposite we have seen the biggest debacle and failure of justice in this state's history. The member for Waterford gave the worst performance of a minister for women in this state's history—to women who have been raped, to children who have been raped and to women living with domestic violence offenders, and with rapists out on the street—because those opposite did not stand up for victims. She was the worst women's minister in history, because to protect women you need to know how to define a woman.

(Time expired)

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We will have order before we go to the next question.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for a period of one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Lytton withdrew from the chamber at 10.58 am.

Mr SPEAKER: I will ask once again: can we have some silence in the chamber before we go to the next question.

Influenza, Vaccination

Mr BAILEY: I am proud to wear purple on Wear It Purple Day. My question is to the Minister for Health. Just weeks ago the minister said he was not happy with Queensland's vaccination rates, yet the Deputy Premier said the government is comfortable with the vaccination rates. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from ABC News online, dated 12 August 2025, titled 'Queensland premier, deputy premier refuse to publicly share flu vaccination status amid low uptake'.

Can the minister advise if he is still not happy, or has the Deputy Premier directed him to be comfortable with vaccination rates?

Mr SPEAKER: No, no. You will rephrase that question or I will rule it out of order.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Can the minister advise if he is still not happy with Queensland's vaccination rates being below the national average in every single age category?

Mr NICHOLLS: Finally the inoculation of the shadow health minister has ended and he has come out to ask a question. It has only taken the better part of three months.

A government member: The vaccine has worn off.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, the vaccine obviously wore off.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: It is obvious that his question hesitancy has been overcome at long last and he is finally asking a question. The free flu program that was not allocated funding in the budget by those over there when we came to office has been funded to the tune of \$25 million by the Crisafulli LNP government. That was an announcement I made in January this year. That program has run longer and has had more invested in it than was the case under the Labor Party. We have run that program since 1 March. Their program started in May. We will run all the way through to the end of September. In fact, it has been boosted with an additional \$100,000 worth of marketing money as at 1 July to expand that program to ensure that people know the benefits of vaccines as recommended by the Chief Health Officer. The Chief Health Officer, Dr Heidi Carroll, made those recommendation and we accepted those recommendations and the program continues to run. It started sooner, finishes later, is fully funded in terms of the promotions and marketing of the free flu vaccination campaign and is actually funded, which it was not by those opposite.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, you have asked your question.

Mr NICHOLLS: I can advise that for the year to date there have been 57,963 notified cases of flu by week of episode. To the same period last year, 62,993—over 5,000 more notified cases under those opposite last year than has been the case this year. Those are the statistics. I am happy to table for the information of the member for Miller and all members in the House that chart that has been provided.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, depicting chart titled 'Notified cases of flu by week of episode date'.

I understand why the member for Miller has a question hesitancy and that is because every time he thinks he has a question that gets you he finds out it boomerangs straight back to him—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, you never stopped all the way through. You are now warned.

Police Resources

Ms POOLE: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the minister explain how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering our hardworking police the tools and the resources they need and is the minister aware of any approaches that failed police and victims during a decade of decline?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question, a member, as we know, or certainly every member on this side knows, who has dedicated her adult life to community safety and fighting crime. It is a pleasure to work with her in the parliament but also as the assistant minister for community safety because she knows what it takes to drive down crime—not only drive down crime but also restore justice for victims. I acknowledge that she is wearing purple today. The member for Miller pointed out how proud he was to wear a purple tie, but it takes more than wearing a purple tie to protect victims and restore justice for victims of crime across Queensland.

It was a pleasure, just the weekend before last, to visit Townsville with the Premier. I caught up with the member and we spoke to a lot of police across Townsville when we launched the biggest, most strategic and protracted operation in the last decade to stop crime in Townsville and Cairns. I am happy to inform the member and everyone present that since that time our frontline local police, supported by the State Flying Squad, the traffic task force, the Dog Squad and other units from South-East Queensland, have arrested 300 offenders on almost 1,200 charges. We will continue to do that because we know that behind every offender and charge is a crime and we need to restore justice for victims of crime. That is why we are giving our police not only the laws but also the resources they need to do that. In the budget recently we allocated \$147.9 million to our frontline police to make sure they have the tools in their kit to do that and to keep themselves and the community safe, whether that is state-of-the-art tasers, new alcometers—or roadside breath testing devices—tactical first aids kits to protect themselves and the community or tyre deflation devices. I want to assure the members on both sides that we will ensure that every cent of that money is spent on frontline policing equipment.

I was outraged to learn the information from the Attorney-General, as others have ventilated today, that under the shadow treasurer when she was the health minister and the attorney-general a \$19.5 million investment of taxpayer money to drive down the wait times for rape victims and vulnerable victims of crime—often children and people with impairment—to outsource these rape kits to fast-track and restore justice for victims, was spent on new demountables. I want to assure everyone in this chamber that the \$147.9 million we have allocated to police will not be spent on chairs, demountables, throws or cushions—or purple coloured ties as some sort of token to show that you care about restoring justice for victims. We are putting our money where our mouth is. You can come in here and brag about your purple tie, but you failed victims, whether it was rape kits or re-allocating money for debt when it should have been driving down crime. It is outrageous and you should apologise. We care more about vulnerable victims and children and we will ensure that they get justice.

Opposition members interjected.

Estimates Committees

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Will the Premier commit to further reforming the estimates and committee processes beyond the changes made this year, including to reinstate improvements for crossbench and opposition members that were introduced last year under the previous government?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for the question. I do acknowledge the fact she is asking a question about another government election commitment that has been delivered. I want to start by mentioning, first and foremost, the way that the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker chaired it. That was a government election commitment. There have been some reflections on the chair go wrong today so let me make one go right—well done, Mr Speaker. Both you and the Deputy Speaker did an excellent job. I think even the harshest of critics would say that the way that that took the politics out of the way estimates was run was excellent.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the manager of opposition business. I believe that the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker did an excellent job.

Mr de BRENNI: I rise to a point of order. I made no such interjection. I therefore take personal offence and ask that the Premier withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. I just want to unpack something else. We increased the number of days that estimates were held and the number of hours for hearings so there was an extra four hours. Our commitment was that it would be a 50-50 split in the time between government and non-government. I can reveal today to the House that, in fact, the number was closer to 60-40 to the opposition.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: Maybe with that positive reflection on you, Mr Speaker, you might have been a little too fair. I will say it forms an excellent opportunity for the administration to be held accountable. The member asked a question about the crossbench. I agree with the member: the crossbench should get more questions. I contrast the way we conducted ourselves in opposition, with sharing the opportunities, to the way that the former government has. I say to the honourable member that next

year we will continue to have more hours for estimates, next year we will continue to have an independent Speaker or Deputy Speaker chair it and next year we will continue to go with a minimum of 50-50—but clearly a little more. I think it would be incumbent on the opposition to ensure that the crossbench does have the ability. Based on what I saw this year the most probing, most researched, most detailed questions came from the crossbench as opposed to the opposition, with one exception: the government members used the opportunity to ask questions for their electorate. The government members used the opportunity, not like we saw previously in the 10 years of decline where they stood up like robots. The government members used the opportunity well and so did crossbench members, like the member for Noosa. What I say to the honourable member is we will continue to stay true to our word: the estimates process will continue to run independently, as it did. I say to the opposition that the greatest gift you could give to democracy is give it to someone on the crossbench who will do the research that they will not be able to.

Sovereign Industry Development Fund

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Crisafulli government is delivering Queensland's sovereign industry capabilities, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Burnett for that great question. I loved touring with the honourable member the state development site in Bundaberg, which has great capacity for sovereign industry development. The former Labor government let most of the state development land in Bundaberg sit idle and unutilised, but this government absolutely is investing in sovereign industry capability. The Crisafulli government is investing over \$180 million for the SIDF, the Sovereign Industry Development Fund, which will focus on three things: defence, biofuels and biomedicine. That is the priority of the Crisafulli government.

The member asked about the decade of decay, decline and destruction under the Labor government. In contrast to our government, they chased fantasy projects like hydrogen. Our 10 months of delivery stand in stark contrast to the 10-year record of decay, decline and destruction under the Labor government. There was a consistent misuse, abuse and waste of taxpayer dollars on the vanity projects of the opposition leader and the deputy opposition leader. They were absolute vanity projects.

Mr Janetzki: We know how much.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will get to how much their vanity projects cost, Treasurer. They are projects such as the discontinued Fortescue electrolyser manufacturing facility at Gladstone. I was going to tell members what the member for Woodridge said, but I will quote from the press release as it is much more exciting. The 2021 press release is headed 'Fortescue's Qld hydrogen facility gets planning go-ahead' and, of course, we now know that the project is not proceeding. The treasurer and deputy premier at the time, former minister Dick, said—

FFI could have built this facility anywhere in Australia.

They chose Queensland.

Can members guess what has happened since then? It gets worse, because not only was this a fanciful project of the former treasurer and deputy premier; the state Labor government approved \$92.5 million of taxpayer funds for that project and \$65.97 million has already been paid to Fortescue under the former Labor government's terrible deal. Former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk now says that hydrogen is just 'too hard'. She has said it just 'doesn't stack up'. Why, then, did she, her government and the former deputy premier and now opposition leader give Fortescue—billionaires—\$65 million of Queensland taxpayers' money?

A government member: What else is there? What else are they hiding?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection of the honourable member. What else is there? Here is the new deal: on behalf of Queensland taxpayers, I have directed my department to advise Fortescue that the Crisafulli government will issue a notice to comply and a default notice and seek full reimbursement of the \$65.97 million that went towards this now discontinued project. That is value for taxpayers' money and we are going to try to get it back.

Chief Health Officer, Appointment

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister outline how much taxpayer funds have been spent on the recruitment of the new Chief Health Officer role to date?

Mr Field: Not \$65 million.

Mr NICHOLLS: I fear a little bit of competition coming from the backbench. I suspect the member for Capalaba might have been responsible for that so I take the interjection, even though I had not got to my feet. Certainly it will not be \$65 million, by any stretch of the imagination, so full credit to the member for Capalaba.

When it comes to wasting money, none are greater at it than Labor governments of the past, as we experienced in 10 years of decline. The Treasurer has such a difficult job in bringing this budget back into some semblance of order because they spent money like it was going out of fashion. They were running the printing presses downstairs at 1 William Street, thinking they could print money—none more so than in the Department of Health, where, as we pointed out earlier this year, they had overspent the budget by \$12 billion. They had failed to provide for things like pay for nurses and midwives. They had failed to provide for Mater Private Hospital Springfield stage 2, worth \$638 million. As the Queensland Audit Office found, they had overdrawn on the Sustaining Capital program such that there was a \$2 billion backlog of works in our hospital system. They had blown out the so-called Capacity Expansion Program, which an independent report found was undeliverable and futile in its current state, by over \$5 million.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If the health minister does not know then he should say so.

Mr Bleijie: He just said it was under \$65 million. He answered it.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Manager of Opposition Business, if you have a point of order then state what your point of order is. This is not an opportunity to make a speech.

Mr de BRENNI: It is on relevance. The question was very specific.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you heard the question. You have one minute and 18 seconds left to respond to the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am getting competition not only from the backbench but also from the front bench. Obviously, the Deputy Premier is missing out on questions but is ready to go.

For those opposite, the process for the recruitment of the Chief Health Officer is ongoing. The ads are still running. They are on Seek and they are on a number of advertising portals including those used by the medical profession. The appointment of the Chief Health Officer is proceeding in accordance with the requirements of the legislation—as it has done for previous administrations and, no doubt, as it will continue to be done in the future and as it is done for the appointment of all officers. Whether it is a deputy director-general for Health Infrastructure Queensland or a new deputy director-general with responsibilities for the Chief Health Officer, it is all being done according to the processes that have been set out and followed by previous governments and being followed by this government. They will continue to be followed, as we have indicated. We will be making sure we spend our money on easier access to health services closer to where you live, dealing with ramping and dealing with the elective surgery health crisis left to us after a decade of Labor.

Social and Affordable Housing

Mr MOLHOEK: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. Can the minister update the House on the Crisafulli LNP government's progress to deliver fairness within Queensland's public housing system, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr O'CONNOR: I begin by thanking the member for Southport for his consistent and passionate advocacy for housing across the entire system. He has been a longstanding advocate for better housing outcomes for Queenslanders and, in particular, the community that we both represent on the Gold Coast. I thank him for his genuine advocacy.

The member is correct: Queenslanders expect our social housing system to have fairness and equity embedded within it. Along with a lot of Queenslanders, I was shocked to learn that 45 per cent of tenants in public housing had not had their eligibility, their income or their assets checked for over five years. That is an extraordinary situation. The most shocking thing is that the former Labor government had known about it for a long time. In July 2022, the Queensland Audit Office had recommended that rent ineligibility checks be restarted but they were not. For the over two years that they were in office from that point, they did not restart those rent ineligibility checks. That means that the former and now shadow housing minister let property owners and high-income earners live in social housing in Queensland.

The self-appointed champions of social housing—the Labor Party—could not deliver. They could not deliver outcomes for our most vulnerable Queenslanders either in managing the system we had or in building more homes. They could not keep up with the pace of population growth. It was not fair on our public servants, either. They signed up to manage the system properly to support our most vulnerable, but they were not able to do that. They were not able to properly manage tenancies.

I say to the member for Southport that our public servants have been busy in the south-west region. Our housing officers have conducted more reviews so far than any other region across Queensland, accounting for about 37 per cent of the reviews undertaken. Of the 590 checks that have been completed, 118 of those tenancies have had their rent reduced.

Labor were lousy landlords. They were not doing checks on rent. They were charging pensioners too much to live in social housing. It is completely unacceptable. That is why we are turning it around. We have restarted those eligibility checks, and over 2,000 have been completed since 1 July. That is how these tenancies should be properly managed.

After a decade of decline, we are delivering. In our first 10 months we have made changes across the housing system not only to properly manage tenancies but also to ramp up our building program. Our record \$5.6 billion investment in this four-year period alone will deliver over 2,000 social and community homes per year. That is more than quadruple the amount that the former government managed each year during their decade in power.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (11.21 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Primary Industries and Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025.

Tabled paper: Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.

Last year the Queensland parliament passed the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024. This act legislated a ban on greenhouse gas storage activities in the Great Artesian Basin due to the potential environmental and safety implications on the basin's water resources. The Crisafulli government supported this ban to protect the basin, which plays a critical role in supplying water to towns, local communities and the agricultural sector across the state.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Just a moment, Minister. Members who are leaving the chamber should do so quietly and quickly, otherwise take your conversations outside. Having a conversation in the hallway is better than having it inside the chamber.

Mr LAST: As a result of the ban, the greenhouse gas exploration permit held by Carbon Transport and Storage Corporation—CTSCo—was legislatively ended. This permit, known as EPQ 10, was the only one of its kind in Queensland and was wholly contained within the Great Artesian Basin. Under the amended Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, CTSCo must decommission any greenhouse gas wells onsite by plugging and abandoning them within two years.

CTSCo was not consulted on the ban or the terms under which its exploration permit was ended. However, following the ending of its permit, CTSCo proposed an alternative approach to decommissioning: converting its wells to water supply bores for the use and ownership of the landholders where the bores are located. This proposal would provide landowners with long-term access to a new water supply without the financial burden of drilling a new bore. It would also deliver a positive legacy outcome from the now ended CTSCo project. All landowners have expressed support for the proposal and intend to access the Gubberamunda Sandstone aquifer for stock and domestic purposes.

Like the landholders, the Crisafulli government supports this proposal. It supports the beneficial re-use of well infrastructure and aligns with existing government policy under the Petroleum and Gas

(Production and Safety) Act 2004, which allows for unused petroleum wells to be converted to water supply bores for landowner use.

The bill I introduce today proposes amendments to the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 to provide this alternative decommissioning pathway for CTSCo. The bill sets out a clear process and requirements for CTSCo to either plug and abandon a well in line with existing obligations or convert the well into a water supply bore and transfer ownership to a landowner. Allowing both options provides CTSCo with flexibility and certainty to progress decommissioning in a manner that is safe, practical and beneficial to landowners.

The bill also makes it clear that CTSCo remains responsible for the wells until they are either converted and transferred to landowners or plugged and abandoned. This approach will minimise the long-term liability risk for the state.

To ensure the landholders receive a high-quality, safe and durable asset, the bill requires that all conversion works be carried out by a licensed water bore driller in accordance with a conversion plan and minimum technical requirements. To facilitate the conversion process, the bill streamlines regulatory requirements while removing the need for additional development approval under the Planning Act 2016.

Furthermore, to provide certainty to landowners about accessing and using water from the converted bores, the bill provides that the Water Act regulator will grant a stock water licence upon transfer of ownership. There will be no need for landholders to apply for this licence.

The amendments are targeted and site specific in nature. They will only apply to CTSCo and do not establish a broader, ongoing framework under the act. My department has consulted with CTSCo on the draft bill. CTSCo has confirmed it believes the proposed amendments align with its understanding of the policy intent. Recognising the time required to progress these amendments through parliament, I have exercised my power under the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 to extend CTSCo's statutory decommissioning deadline by 12 months from 18 June 2026 to 18 June 2027. This will ensure CTSCo has sufficient time to comply with its decommissioning obligations, following the proposed passage of the bill.

In closing, this bill delivers a sensible, practical and mutually beneficial outcome for both CTSCo and landowners. It supports the responsible repurposing of existing infrastructure, enhances rural water access and maintains environmental and safety standards for bore construction. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (11.26 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Primary Industries and Resources Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Primary Industries and Resources Committee.

HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.27 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025.

Tabled paper: Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.

I am pleased to introduce the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. The bill amends the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012. The heavy vehicle national law provides a single national law for the consistent regulation of heavy vehicle operations across Australia, with the exception of Western Australia and the Northern Territory. As host jurisdiction, the law will first be enacted here in Queensland before it can then be applied by other participating states and territories. The national law regulates matters about the operation of heavy vehicles, including prescribing maximum vehicle masses and dimensions, vehicle standards and measures designed to safely manage driver fatigue. The national law also establishes the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to administer the law.

This bill is a significant and timely reform that modernises the regulatory framework that governs heavy vehicle operations in participating jurisdictions. The bill amendments also align with the Queensland government's strong commitment to improving road safety, reducing red tape and enhancing the productivity of Queensland's heavy vehicle transport sector. The bill implements key recommendations endorsed by the infrastructure and transport ministers and is the product of extensive consultation and policy development led by the National Transport Commission through the Heavy Vehicle National Law Review. I commend the collaborative efforts of the many people across the country who have made these reforms possible including those in the National Transport Commission, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, jurisdictions' transport and police agencies, and industry associations. I thank them all for their commitment, drive and persistence.

The reforms outlined in this bill not only strengthen the operational efficiency of the heavy vehicle sector but also deliver tangible benefits to Queensland road users and the broader community. The objectives of this bill are clear: to improve safety outcomes, streamline compliance, reduce red tape, and ensure that the national law remains responsive to the needs of industry and the broader community. These reforms are the culmination of effort across many years. Importantly, these objectives are achieved through a range of amendments that reduce regulatory burden while maintaining robust safety standards.

The heavy vehicle industry is vital to Queensland's economy as it supports our supply chains, creates jobs, and facilitates the movement of goods across our state and beyond. This bill ensures that we will continue to support this critical industry while upholding our commitment to public safety and efficient governance. I will now detail the key reforms contained in the bill.

This bill acknowledges the importance of fostering productivity within the heavy vehicle industry through improvements to the accreditation scheme. It will provide operators with more flexibility in how they can demonstrate compliance with prescribed requirements such as fatigue management work and rest hours or general mass limits. This approach will be achieved through the introduction of an enhanced accreditation framework. This framework strengthens the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme by requiring operators to implement a safety management system, commonly known as an SMS, that is scalable to their organisation and operations. The requirement to have an SMS that is subject to audit is a new core accreditation requirement that will underpin both general safety accreditation and alternative compliance accreditation under the national law.

General safety accreditation will help operators meet their primary safety duty obligations, and alternative compliance accreditation will support operators by enabling the flexibility of applying different and innovative methods for complying with prescribed obligations. Operators seeking accreditation must identify and address public risks associated with their transport activities and specify controls to mitigate those risks in their SMS. This proactive approach not only enhances safety and efficiency by specifically identifying risks relevant to that business but also recognises the operational realities faced by industry participants. It will provide the flexibility needed to accommodate the varied nature of the heavy vehicle sector and encourages operators to find innovative safety solutions. Furthermore, to be accredited it will be mandatory for an operator to have their SMS independently audited to ensure it is compliant with approved standards. This provides for accountability and transparency and contributes to improved safety outcomes for industry and the community.

Within the bill is a new duty to be 'fit to drive', which expands upon the existing obligation for drivers not to drive while impaired by fatigue. This new duty applies to all drivers of heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes, not just those operating fatigue regulated vehicles over 12 tonnes. It places a proactive responsibility on drivers to manage their health and fitness and empowers them to cease driving if they are unfit to drive for any reason. This reform reflects a shared responsibility between drivers and operators and is a critical step in reducing the risk of fatigue related incidents on our roads.

The bill enhances compliance and enforcement outcomes by introducing greater flexibility for the regulator. Improvement notices will be supported by amendments that allow for the commencement of

prosecution in serious cases for the same conduct, allowing for more flexible and effective compliance responses. Additionally, the bill expands the use of formal cautions and warnings where appropriate, making the law fairer and providing a proportionate response without compromising safety. This is particularly important when dealing with minor breaches such as clerical work diary errors.

To support these reforms, the bill adjusts penalty amounts in the national law following the comprehensive review of penalties undertaken by the National Transport Commission. Amendments in the bill increase and decrease some penalties to better reflect the seriousness of offences and promote deterrence. Several minor or duplicated offences are also removed, streamlining the law and reducing red tape. The penalty review was conducted in consultation with working groups comprised of representatives from police, transport agencies and industry.

In terms of governance, the bill modernises the structure and operation of the regulator's board. It increases the board size to a potential maximum of seven members from the current maximum of five members, and it introduces new qualification and conflict-of-interest requirements. Term limits of three consecutive terms, or a maximum of 10 years, are also included which will promote renewal and accountability. Additionally, board members may be removed where they have engaged in misconduct; have failed to, or are unable to, properly exercise their functions as a board member; or have engaged in paid employment without responsible ministers' approval. Importantly, the bill also formally recognises the ministerial statement of expectations, which directs the regulator's strategic direction and performance.

Another key reform is an overhaul of the codes of practice framework. The bill simplifies the process for developing and approving codes of practice by shifting responsibility for initiating and developing codes from industry to the regulator, consistent with other safety regulators. This change will ensure that codes of practice are developed with a consistent, risk-based approach and that they provide clear and practical guidance to regulated parties. Ministers will retain oversight through new powers to direct the regulator to amend or revoke a code of practice, ensuring accountability and responsiveness.

The bill also strengthens ministerial direction and approval powers, allowing responsible ministers to direct the regulator to exercise a certain function or power in cases of serious public risk and where it is in the public interest. A responsible minister will also be able to give the regulator a direction that applies only in their own jurisdiction, provided that they are satisfied the direction is necessary to prevent or minimise a serious public risk. These provisions strike a careful balance between independence of the regulator and ministerial oversight, ensuring that the regulator remains responsive to emerging risks and community expectations.

A further key reform is the shift of prescriptive detail from primary legislation into regulations. This change simplifies the primary legislation and allows for more agile, specific and risk-based regulation. It includes matters such as compliance with vehicle standards, permit conditions, and work and rest time requirements. This flexibility is essential in a rapidly evolving transport and technology environment and will ensure the regulatory framework is fit for purpose to meet future challenges. For example, work diary arrangements have been streamlined by removing requirements and consolidating details that can be better managed through regulations.

Finally, the bill includes consequential amendments to Queensland application provisions in the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 to remove duplication and to ensure that section references arising from the amendments to the national law in the bill are updated. These changes will be supported by a separate regulation amendment package to update references and terminology in relevant Queensland subordinate legislation.

Consultation on the bill was undertaken with state and territory government transport and enforcement agencies. Consultation was also undertaken with peak transport industry organisations, other key stakeholder representatives and the community. Industry and stakeholder groups have expressed their support for the amendments.

In closing, the bill represents a significant milestone in the ongoing evolution of the national law governing heavy vehicles. It is a balanced and forward-looking piece of legislation that addresses the needs of industry stakeholders while prioritising public safety and regulatory efficiency. These reforms will not only improve safety outcomes on Queensland roads but also allow the heavy vehicle industry to thrive in a modern and competitive environment. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.38 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.

MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (11.38 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Major Events Act 2014, the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

Tabled paper: Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.

I am pleased to introduce the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The bill will support a streamlined contemporary regulatory regime for major events and major sports facilities and makes Queensland a more attractive destination for concerts and other events that provide significant social, cultural and economic benefits for the state.

The bill will support a streamlined, contemporary regulatory regime for major events and major sports facilities that makes Queensland a more attractive destination for concerts and other events and provides significant social, cultural and economic benefits for the state.

This bill represents yet another demonstration of the forward-thinking, outcomes focused approach of the LNP government. It is a bill that looks to the future of Queensland, to the future of our events industry, to the future of sport and recreation in this state and to the future of our communities, which deserve the very best facilities, the very best opportunities and the very best experiences.

The Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 establishes Stadiums Queensland as the authority responsible for Queensland's major sports facilities that have the capacity for staging national and international sport, recreational or entertainment events and special events such as concerts.

The Major Events Act 2014 provides powers to facilitate the smooth and safe delivery of declared major events, including the ability to regulate access and movement within event areas, manage advertising and commercial activities to prevent ambush marketing, install temporary infrastructure and streamline approvals by temporarily modifying or suspending certain laws.

The Major Events Act 2014 has been successfully applied to several significant events in Queensland, including the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 and the British and Irish Lions Tour 2025, and is used annually for supercar motor racing events, including the Gold Coast 500 and Townsville 500. With the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games fast approaching, we need to seize every opportunity to attract more events like these to our state. We will act to ensure Queensland is competitive, dynamic and a first choice for promoters, organisers, athletes and artists worldwide.

This bill will limit unnecessary red tape associated with concerts and other major events and help to deliver more events for Queensland communities. Red tape, I must point out, was the trademark of the previous Labor government. Layer upon layer of bureaucracy discouraged investment, suffocated initiative and frustrated communities who simply wanted to see their facilities used to their full potential.

This bill is a clear sign that the LNP government is committed to delivering a legacy that will benefit all Queenslanders for generations to come. We are not just preparing for the games: we are

building a more vibrant, dynamic and economically prosperous state. We are providing a clear pathway for growth, innovation and opportunity.

The bill will also deliver statutory body best practice for Stadiums Queensland, providing significant enhancements to its governance, accountability and ability to act with commercial agility. This is not just a matter of good governance; it is a matter of good economic sense. We are unlocking the full potential of these assets, ensuring that every dollar of taxpayer money invested delivers a maximum return for the people of Queensland.

One of the key proposals of the bill is to provide a contemporary regulatory framework for special events such as concerts at major sports facilities that provides for commercial equity across all Stadiums Queensland venues.

The bill will establish a fit-for-purpose regulatory framework under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 that overrides existing legislation as it applies to noise from a special event at a major sports facility, effectively allowing for future regulatory conditions to be set for concerts under the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014.

Subject to those regulatory conditions being set, this framework will allow major sports facilities on the Gold Coast—the People First Stadium at Carrara and the Cbus Super Stadium at Robina—to host concerts until 10:30 pm, which is now the industry standard for concerts and the current concert finishing time at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. The Labor opposition sat on their hands while the Gold Coast, one of our state's most vibrant and dynamic regions, was held back by archaic, inconsistent regulations. They gave Suncorp Stadium a competitive edge but they left the Gold Coast in the dust, as if it were an afterthought. This is a classic example of the previous government's short-sighted, Brisbane-centric approach to governance.

Current provisions for managing noise from venues are provided across various state legislation, local laws and development approvals. This framework is far too complex and results in an uneven playing field in terms of event attraction across the state.

People First Stadium has hosted 10 concerts since its redevelopment in 2011. Comparatively, the Cbus Super Stadium has only hosted one concert since its construction in 2008. This is not a statistic we should be proud of, and it is a direct consequence of the previous Labor government's failure to act. They had years to fix this, to listen to the people of the Gold Coast, but they chose to do nothing. They were content with the status quo, even if it meant our state was missing out on millions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs. They paid lip-service to the idea of a vibrant Gold Coast but their actions, or lack thereof, spoke volumes.

By allowing for future regulatory conditions to be stipulated for these venues, the bill will afford the state the future bargaining power to attract major international artists to the Gold Coast. This will help cement the Gold Coast's reputation as an international touring destination, allowing the region to unlock the significant social, cultural and economic benefits associated with such status. We are giving the Gold Coast the tools it needs to compete on a global scale. We are showing the people of this region that we are on their side and that we are committed to their success. We are not just talking about a vibrant Queensland; we are actively building one.

The bill also establishes a simple, consistent regulatory framework for Stadiums Queensland, stadium operators and hirers, reducing their administrative burden, allowing them to focus on their job of holding world-class sporting and entertainment events, and ultimately allowing them to provide a return on the significant government investment in these facilities.

We're cutting through the layers of bureaucracy that the Labor government left behind, a tangled web of red tape that has hindered progress for far too long. They believed that even more rules and regulations were the answer to every problem, but all it did was create a system that was slow, inefficient and costly. We are taking a different approach. We believe in empowering people, trusting our operators and creating a system that is built for speed and efficiency. This is a clear example of our commitment to a leaner, smarter government—a government that works with the people, not against them.

In 2024 statewide public consultation on the proposal to regulate concerts at Gold Coast stadiums in a similar way to Suncorp Stadium was undertaken, with the public able to provide feedback via a survey and written submissions. The consultation revealed strong support for the proposed changes, with many respondents highlighting the potential economic and cultural benefits for the region while also acknowledging some localised concerns about noise and traffic impacts.

We listened to the people, something the previous government had a track record of failing to do. When they were in power their consultation was often a hollow exercise, a box-ticking activity to

justify a pre-determined outcome. We, on the other hand, genuinely value community feedback and are committed to working with our communities to find solutions that benefit everyone.

It is important to note that, subject to passage of the bill, conditions for the operation of concerts at Gold Coast stadiums that mitigate any impact on local residents will be considered in consultation with the local community and other key stakeholders, such as local government and stadium operators, through an amendment to the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014. This is our commitment to a balanced approach: unlocking economic opportunities while ensuring the quality of life for local residents is protected. We are not taking a one-size-fits-all approach and we are not riding roughshod over local concerns.

The second key proposal of the bill is to strengthen deterrents to unlawful ticket reselling by increasing existing maximum penalties where tickets for events at major sports facilities are sold above ten per cent of the original price to align with penalties in jurisdictions such as New South Wales. This will ensure Queensland remains competitive in attracting and retaining major event content.

The LNP government is standing up for fans and standing against unscrupulous practices that rip them off. We are saying loud and clear that we will not tolerate ticket scalping, a practice that the previous government was woefully inadequate in addressing. This is another example of those opposite being soft on crime. Labor's failure to appropriately address ticket scalping left ordinary fans priced out of the very events they support while profiteers exploit loopholes and weak enforcement. Instead of standing up for fairness and accessibility, Labor policymakers have allowed predatory resellers to hijack the market, creating an environment where only those willing to pay grossly inflated prices can attend. This neglect shows a lack of political will and a disregard for the cultural and social value of live sport and entertainment, reducing them to commodities for opportunists rather than experiences for the broader community.

Ticket security is an important element that is sought by promoters of major events to support brand protection. Increasing penalties for ticket scalping helps to provide better commercial protections for event organisers and their affiliates and decreases reputational risks where ticket-scalping platforms may be perceived as associated with an event and its brand. The value of maximum penalties for ticket scalping under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 is significantly lower than what would apply for the same offence for individuals or bodies corporate in other Australian jurisdictions including New South Wales, which is considered one of Queensland's biggest competitors in attracting sporting and other major events. I am, therefore, seeking to increase maximum penalties for individuals to \$22,531 and for bodies corporate to \$113,492. This will ensure we remain competitive with states such as New South Wales in terms of discouraging ticket scalping. The Labor opposition had plenty of time to fix this but chose to do nothing. They were content to let Queensland fans get fleeced by scalpers. This is not just a regulatory oversight but a failure of leadership. We are cleaning up their mess and putting fans first.

The bill makes corresponding ticket-scalping amendments to the Major Events Act 2014 to ensure the penalties remain consistent across the statute book. Queensland is also the only Australian jurisdiction which penalises buyers of unlawfully resold tickets, so I am proposing to remove this provision so that we can encourage people to report ticket scalping. This is a commonsense change that the previous Labor government failed to implement. The previous government were punishing the victims while the perpetrators got away with it. We are changing that. We are empowering people to do the right thing and report illegal activity without fear of being penalised themselves. This is about trust, and this is about putting the community at the heart of our decision-making.

In order to maximise the operational efficiency and agility of Stadiums Queensland, the bill makes amendments to Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 provisions relating to appointment and termination of the Stadiums Queensland board, including appointment of a deputy chairperson to the board, as well as resignation and vacancy of office. The amendments aim to contemporise the act and bring it into line with current statutory body best practice regarding governance and accountability. This is part of our commitment to good governance and sound financial management. We are ensuring that the people at the helm of Stadiums Queensland are the best in the business and that they have the freedom and the flexibility to make the right decisions for the state.

Additionally, the bill clarifies the definition of 'aircraft' under the ambush-marketing provisions of the act to ensure that relatively new technologies, such as drones which may display unauthorised advertising content at events, are clearly captured and therefore subject to the penalties provided for ambush marketing under the act. This is another example of our forward-thinking approach. We are proactively looking forward at the impact of emerging technologies and ensuring our laws provide solutions to challenges we may experience. The bill also makes further minor, technical,

machinery-in-nature amendments to the Major Events Act 2014 to improve clarity and ensure consistency in how provisions of the act are applied to major events, to support accurate and effective regulation making, to remove ambiguity in the operation of key provisions and to make the act easier to navigate and apply.

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games represents an extraordinary opportunity for all Queenslanders. It is an opportunity we cannot, and will not, squander. This bill is a critical step in our plan to ensure that we capitalise on this once-in-a-generation chance to showcase our state to the world. This bill will ensure that Queensland's regulatory frameworks for major events and major sports facilities deliver commercial agility and statutory body best practice in the lead-up to the games to maximise Queensland's reputation as a host of world-class events.

We are not just building stadiums; we are building a legacy—a legacy of good governance, of economic prosperity and of a vibrant, dynamic Queensland that is ready for the future. We are laying the foundations for a decade of opportunity and prosperity, and we are doing it with a clear vision and a steady hand. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (11.53 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.

Members, before I call the Clerk to read the next order of the day, I would like to remind the following members that they remain on warnings: Pine Rivers, Logan and Miller.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL


Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill first. The question is—

That the report of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee be adopted.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.54 am): I rise to address report No. 11 of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee—the committee that I proudly chair in this House—on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 and the budget estimates program. For the last 10 years the budget estimates process has been a cornerstone of our democracy in Queensland. For years it has been an opportunity for elected members of parliament, in particular non-government members of parliament, to ask questions of ministers and senior public servants to hold the elected government to account. I could not agree more with that statement. I am absolutely certain that is what it was all about and meant to be. It did not quite work like that over the last decade; nevertheless, that is what it was meant to be.


I took the opportunity to have a look at Mr Speaker's response to a question on notice that he provided on 31 July 2025. The response related to the amount of time allocated for the estimates process this term as opposed to in previous years. It is interesting that, yes, he confirmed that in 2025 we had proposed 70.25 hours of time. I believe in the fullness of time we will receive something from

the parliament to advise us that it was longer than that 70.25 hours. It was 66.25 hours last year, so that is a six per cent increase.

Let us look at what happened in the years leading up to 2024. I will not bore members with all of the details, but on average the amount of time that was provided was 55 hours—as opposed to 70.25 hours. Indeed, for almost all of those earlier years there were seven days of hearings while there were nine days of hearings this year. That is a very big difference—55 hours compared to 70 hours. That is an increase in time of 15 hours, or 27 per cent. That is an extra opportunity for members on the opposition benches to ask questions of the government. Let us look at the whole 10 years when we talk about these things. Over that period, as I said, the average was about 55 hours.

I am comfortable with the way we have taken things. I am comfortable with the fact that we have taken the total hearing time to over 70 hours. As the Premier said, it was successful. We will see more of it and we will see it again next year. Indeed, if those opposite do the right thing by the crossbench, they will give crossbench members more time to ask questions and not leave them to ask their questions at the end of the sessions. That puts that claim to bed.

It was very clear to me in the estimates process for the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill that we received some good information from the Clerk and the Speaker. I want to commend the Parliamentary Service for the ongoing upgrade to the precinct—a place that all Queenslanders can attend, if they so choose, and be proud of. During the estimates process, when I was walking with the Clerk along the verandah and talking about the work that has been going on and continues to go on, he made the very valid point that we will not recognise the precinct in the next term of parliament and the positivity that will come from all of the investment that is being made between now and 2028. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (11.59 am): It is an honour to rise as the first non-government speaker to talk about the estimates process. Reflecting on what the member for Coomera said about the process of estimates, what we did learn from the estimates process as structured by the LNP was that they have not kept their word and they cannot keep their promises. Firstly, they have broken their word to treat parliament with respect. The now Premier said in 2021 that ‘ministers must answer questions otherwise it is a sham’, yet we have discovered through the estimates process that LNP ministers routinely do not answer questions on notice within 30 days. More than that, they guillotine debates, after crying out when in opposition against guillotining debates. We have seen that they have cut short or guillotined debates on 11 bills. They say one thing before the election and do another afterwards.

Another one of their promises about treating parliament with respect was to reform estimates. What did we see this year? We saw another broken promise where time was being wasted through frivolous points of order and time chewed up with the most benign of Dorothy Dixers from government members, and I have to say the questions from the government backbenchers were the most performative, I think, of the whole process as they demonstrated their obedience to their political masters in the chamber.


I have to say the protection cordon run by the LNP in this estimates process was truly extraordinary. We will hear more on this, but our analysis shows there were 504 points of order by government members, with 26 per cent from the Leader of the House and 25 per cent from LNP chairs. I know other members will talk more on this, but can I say that I feel sorry for the LNP chairs. They get into government and they think, ‘This is my role. I am going to run estimates. I am going to have something to do.’ However, what they find out is, ‘No, your role is now just to be an interjector, to raise points of order.’ Even so, they were not the chief interjector or raiser of points of order; it turned out to be that it is a minister of the House. So, I do feel for the LNP members of the committees; they have much less to do than we did when we were in government.

It was an extraordinary effort, as I said, to protect the poorly performing LNP ministers. As the *Courier-Mail* said, the member for Moggill ran ‘a heavy protection cordon around ministers, leaping to stop proceedings when questioning got a little too hot for the government’. This is after the member for Moggill last year, when talking about estimates, interjected that it was a protection racket. If that is the case, then he has become the chief racketeer in this government—wasting time making numerous frivolous points of order, all to protect underperforming ministers. It is clear to many Queenslanders that this LNP Crisafulli government is not keeping their word to respect parliament.

There is one thing that we did discover in estimates and that was the LNP’s sense of entitlement when it comes to aircraft. I will not talk about the latest episode in the aviation drama where the member for Cook has made helicopters his preferred mode of transport for short journeys or his commandeering

of landing strips that belong to other people—I will not talk about that—but I will talk about the \$13,842 it cost the parliament for one flight where the member for Mirani managed to redirect the flight northwards to look at more wind farms, seated where he is most comfortable—in the co-pilot seat. There he is, looking forward—the Biggles of the bush. Don't worry, everyone!

Estimates and recent behaviour—and behaviour that we are witnessing right now—shows that we are dealing with the same old LNP: entitled, self-protecting and cannot keep their promises or their word. In conclusion, the estimates process was an opportunity for the Crisafulli LNP government to deliver on their promises to reform, to do better, for a fresh start. Instead, it is the same old LNP, breaking their word and delivering for themselves.

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.04 pm): I rise today to reflect on the budget estimates process and performance as we consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025. This was both my first budget and my first estimates experience and, boy, what an eye-opener it was! Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Mr Speaker and the team for the organised, thorough scrutiny and undertaking of the estimates process. This year we had extra time to question and consider the budget and it was delivered in a methodical, disciplined manner.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge the fantastic team here at the Parliamentary Service, led by our Clerk, who keep our buildings safe and maintained and allow us to work effectively when we are all away from our offices and families. It is certainly a special place to be and a huge operation to coordinate not only the Legislative Assembly but also the wider community and the critical role you play in access and education.

I know estimates are a time to question and scrutinise the budget, the very set of documents that outline how money will be spent. This is a great responsibility and this is what impacts the lives of every Queenslanders. What we experienced, though, was a disproportionate amount of time spent by the opposition trying to create gotcha moments. Queenslanders do not want that. They want to see a government delivering for them. The Labor opposition had this to say—

Instead of delivering for Queensland, the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for itself, choosing secrecy over transparency.

I would refute this by acknowledging that this year's estimates actually ran for extra time, ministers fronted up, officials fronted up and billions of dollars were scrutinised, and under this budget, we are modernising parliament itself, upgrading security in 97 electorate offices around the state, rolling out a new information management system and finishing the next stage of the annexe refurbishment.

What Labor calls secrecy is really its own reflection. They had a decade to do this work and failed. They set the bar so low it was on the ground. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and that is exactly what they are getting. The opposition spent a disproportionate amount of time questioning costs of under \$10,000, all the while overlooking their own failures and did not bat an eyelid at billion dollar blowouts in hospitals, IT systems that never worked or infrastructure projects that went nowhere when they were in government. That is the difference between this government and theirs. Respect for Queenslanders' money is a core value of the LNP team and an ongoing commitment to deliver for Queensland.


When Mr Speaker was questioned regarding the additional costs of having Mr Speaker and Mr Deputy Speaker chair the estimates hearings—an estimated cost of \$3,000—they failed to understand the importance of independent facilitated chairpersons in order to have a transparent, ethical, orderly and quality questioning of the budget. This is what Queenslanders deserve, and this is what is being delivered.

Labor also claimed that the Crisafulli LNP government has guillotined or cut short portions of a bill 11 times. Queenslanders do not want endless talking, they want action. They want crime fixed, they want housing built and they want services delivered. If Labor think that getting on with the job is a problem, it shows just how out of touch they really are.

The attempts at political pointscoring are ridiculous, and I myself have sat in this chamber when the only person present from the opposition has been the Manager of Opposition Business. In order to claim bills are being cut short, you all better turn up for work. For anyone who doubts this is happening, I encourage you to look at the attendance record from budget week itself.

For my community of Caloundra, this means practical outcomes. It means upgrades to Caloundra roads so families can get to work, to school and to the coast safely. It means investment in better services so locals are not left waiting months for the basics, and it means making sure our growing community has the infrastructure that Labor never delivered. Labor's statement of reservation is nothing

more than sour grapes from a party that wasted its time in office and wasted the trust of Queenslanders. I commend this report to the House.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (12.08 pm): I rise today in consideration of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee report No. 11, *2025-26 Budget estimates—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025*. I would like to thank the Speaker, the Clerk and the parliamentary staff who assisted with the hearing of the committee.

The estimates process is about bringing transparency and accountability to the budget process and the process of making decisions in government. It is a way to hold the government to account and it provides an opportunity to scrutinise not just the expenditure of taxpayer funds but the integrity of the democratic institutions that we stand in today. What we uncovered in this process raised serious questions about accountability and transparency and whether this government truly understands the meaning of democratic reforms.

Let us talk about ministerial accountability. It seems there is none. This government promised to treat parliament with respect, yet their actions tell a very different story. Our prehearing questions revealed that 17 per cent of questions on notice of the LNP government had been answered late and that 17 ministers actually failed to meet their basic parliamentary obligation to answer questions from elected representatives. Top of the ladder is the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, who has not answered 38 per cent of questions. Then we have the Minister for Housing and Minister for Youth, with 35 per cent of questions unanswered. You would think that asking questions of the housing minister was important and that the answers should be noted, but we have not received them. Next is the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support, with 34 per cent of questions unanswered. I could go on and on. Every single one of these ministers has a duty to Queenslanders that requires them to answer questions about the decisions they are making—decisions which impact vulnerable people in our communities. When ministers routinely ignore their obligations to parliament, they ignore their obligations to the people of Queensland and the people who elect them.

During the election campaign the then opposition leader, now Premier, said that he would hold his ministers to account and that he would not tolerate incompetence. My question to the Premier is: does that still stand? Will you be sacking the 17 ministers who have failed their basic obligations to answer these questions? This is about accountability. When ministers routinely ignore their obligations, they are ignoring their responsibilities.

We saw parliamentary debate being shortened. This is another concerning trend. The LNP government has guillotined debate on over 11 occasions, cutting debates short. They have moved that questions during consideration in detail be denied, leaving members unable to ask questions on issues that matter to Queenslanders. This is the same party that when in opposition criticised such practices and promised to do better. The hypocrisy is staggering.

Another troubling revelation unveiled during the committee process was in relation to aircraft use. We heard evidence that a taxpayer-funded charter flight was diverted at the request of a non-committee member who was seated in the copilot seat while the plane was redirected near his property. The same member has potential interests affected by the very legislation the committee was examining. The cost of this charter was a staggering \$13,842. This leaves more questions than answers. How much extra did the taxpayer pay for the diversion of this aircraft? More importantly, what does it say about the integrity of our committee process when non-government members can influence publicly funded travel for their own personal benefit?

Let's reflect on the estimates process itself. The government promised revolutionary reform, yet we only saw Dorothy Dixers to limit the time of those who needed to ask questions—the opposition. During the process we saw the Leader of the House make 212 points of order—a 26 per cent rate.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Ms ASIF: The Leader of the House agrees. He is saying he is only doing his job. Well, he did his job successfully—successfully running a protection racket of ministers who were incompetent and were not able to answer the questions being asked of them.

The people of Queensland deserve better. They deserve a government that honours its commitment, respects parliamentary processes and understands that accountability is not just a campaign slogan; it is a fundamental democratic principle. The Labor opposition will continue to hold this government to account and will continue to ask the hard questions. We will continue to fight for the transparency and accountability that Queenslanders were promised but are yet to receive.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member, I am advised by the table that you may have used some unparliamentary language. It would assist the House if you would please withdraw.

Ms ASIF: I withdraw.



Mr BAROUNIS (Maryborough—LNP) (12.14 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise and deliver my first response to the 2025-26 parliament estimates hearing. The budget estimates process is a vital part of our parliamentary democracy. It allows for public scrutiny of proposed government spending through direct questions to the Speaker and other parliamentary officials. This process is not just about numbers; it is also about transparency, accountability and, above all, respect for the hardworking taxpayers of Queensland.

Under the former government, Queenslanders endured nine long years when transparency was, at best, questionable. The people of this state deserve to know where, how, when and why their money is being spent. That principle lies at the very heart of good governance. The Crisafulli LNP government has nothing to hide—a stark contrast to the previous Labor government. Queenslanders are not naive. They know when information is being withheld. That is exactly why we are on this side of the chamber.

On 24 June 2025 the Hon. David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership, introduced the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 into the House. That bill was referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee for detailed examination. The Treasurer has delivered a clear and comprehensive vision for the future of Queensland. There is nothing but good news for Queensland. The Hon. David Janetzki has outlined the objectives of the Treasury team. The Treasurer outlined the need for the state government to deliver projects that are the most cost effective for the taxpayers of Queensland.

In October 2024, the people of Queensland voted for change and a fresh start. I am proud to say that that is exactly what they are getting with our Crisafulli LNP government. The opposition may be uncomfortable with being reminded of their record—even embarrassed—but that is not our concern. Our government's focus is on delivering for Queenslanders with integrity, with competence and with transparency. The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for Queensland. I would also like to thank all of the staff who are working here at the parliament. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (12.17 pm): As a participant in this year's estimates committee examination of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill, I rise today to firstly put on the record my thanks to all of the parliamentary staff—not just those who participated in the estimates process but all parliamentary staff who have supported members of parliament and the community throughout the last financial year. In particular, I would like to highlight my electorate staff—Michael, Brent, Yvonne and Christina—for what they do not only to support me as a member of parliament but also to support the community that exists within the Morayfield state electorate.


I want to put on the record that this estimates process has shown how disappointingly short the Crisafulli LNP government has fallen on its own promises of transparency and reform. When in opposition, Premier Crisafulli promised to clean up estimates—to give the opposition and crossbenchers more time to hold ministers to account, to reduce Dorothy Dixers and to ensure real accountability—but what Queenslanders got is the opposite. The so-called reforms to estimates promised by the Premier before the election was for a more open and rigorous process, but what we got was a reduction in the accountability protections that were put in place at last year's estimates. Last year, non-government members held around 70 per cent of the questioning time, recognising the importance of scrutiny. Under Premier Crisafulli, that defined allocation has been abolished. The opposition and crossbench together now receive less than the 70 per cent allocation put in place last year, meaning extra time is now given for government-friendly questions from government MPs.

The opportunity for crossbenchers and non-committee opposition members to submit prehearing questions on notice has also been stripped away by Premier Crisafulli and his government, limiting scrutiny. This is not reform; it is suppression. The government also engaged in an extraordinary campaign of disruption at this year's estimates that goes to the heart of scrutiny and accountability: a flood of points of order that consumed valuable minutes, causing answers to not be given by ministers, to cause ministers not to be questioned by members of the committee. Hundreds of points of order were raised systematically focused on limiting substantive questioning. We even learned of an LNP committee chair who attended a practice estimates session with the relevant minister and departmental officers, a concerning revelation that goes to the heart of the separation of powers.

We also discovered that ministers are flouting deadlines when it comes to questions on notice, a most basic measure of accountability in this House. Ministers have a duty to respond within 30 days, yet the committee's report shows that 17 per cent—not a small number—of all questions on notice to

LNP members are not answered on time. This is not an accident; this is a culture of avoidance, and the culture is led from the top, with Premier Crisafulli himself being late on 24 per cent of his questions on notice. One in four of the Premier's questions were not answered on time. Other serial offenders include Minister Camm, at 38 per cent; Minister O'Connor, at 35 per cent; Minister Gerber, at 34 per cent; Minister Simpson, at 33 per cent; Deputy Premier Bleijie, at 29 per cent; and Minister Perrett, at 25 per cent. By contrast, to give credit where credit is due, Attorney-General Frecklington and Treasurer Janetzki recorded zero late answers, but they were the only two. In contrast, most of the Premier's team do not respect the accountability measures to answer questions on time.

This estimates process shows that under Premier Crisafulli accountability is not a priority and transparency is not a priority, and the opposition will continue to hold this government to account.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.22 pm): I rise to address the debate on report No. 11 of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee titled *2025-26 Budget estimates—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025*. I note that there was one recommendation of the committee: that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill be agreed to. From the outset I wish to acknowledge the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Clerk of the Parliament as well as the Deputy Speaker for their participation throughout the estimates hearing.

The estimates committee hearing process this year saw new reforms being delivered as promised by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government. Thanks to these reforms, what we saw during this year's estimates was a stronger, fairer and more accountable process than what Queenslanders had seen for years under Labor. For the first time in years, Queenslanders saw a return to a calm and methodical examination of the state budget, with ministers and senior public servants given the opportunity to provide detail and fulsome answers to a wide range of questions.

These reforms introduced by the Crisafulli LNP state government were considered and meaningful. Most significantly, these reforms saw the Speaker and Deputy Speaker chair the estimates committee hearings. This provided assurance to all participants that proceedings would be conducted impartially, fairly and in accordance with the standing orders of the House. Their calm and fair stewardship was widely acknowledged as a success, bringing balance and credibility back to the estimates process. I want to commend and thank the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for their diligence and significant work undertaken in chairing each and every respective hearing.

Another important reform was the addition of an extra day to the estimates schedule, together with an additional four hours of questioning, ensuring more time was available for scrutiny. This gave members of parliament the time needed to focus on the issues that matter to Queenslanders. I note the commentary provided in Labor's statement of reservation and wish to highlight a few matters. On an indicative count—and I note further analysis will be provided—I am advised that Labor and the crossbench had the vast majority of both time for questions and number of questions asked. I am advised, in fact, in relation to question time allocations during estimates, total minutes, the final split of government and non-government time was 60 per cent non-government, 2,207 minutes, and 40 per cent government, 1,488 minutes.

The reality is that the Labor opposition failed to use their time effectively. Perhaps prior to these estimates hearings the Labor opposition should have taken their own advice that if they want better answers they should ask better questions. Asking better questions starts with questions that are within standing orders. Too often Labor's questions were irrelevant, contained imputations, were argumentative or fell outside standing orders. Frequently Labor would ask about matters outside the scope of the committee altogether.


Mr de Brenni: How many points of order were upheld? Not many.

Dr ROWAN: It was telling that, when asked to rephrase, Labor shadow ministers and Labor members could not adapt and simply moved on to the next scripted line, and that is the point. When it comes to those opposite and the Manager of Opposition Business, who is interjecting, Labor could not ask questions that were within standing orders or were relevant to the committee at hand. That is not the mark of a credible opposition but of a disordered and weak one—a Labor opposition that is lacking strategy, agility and aptitude.

Despite having more hours, the Labor opposition squandered their opportunity and are now seeking to blame others for their incompetence. That being said, the real story of this year's estimates is not about Labor's shortcomings but the success of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government's reforms. The estimates hearings of 2025 demonstrated that accountability in Queensland has been restored. We have a stronger, fairer and focused process which is firmly based on the people of Queensland.

As Leader of the House, I wish to acknowledge all committee members, ministers and departmental representatives for their work through what is one of the most rigorous sittings in the parliamentary calendar. I also thank parliamentary staff, attendants and precinct staff for their professionalism and dedication not only throughout estimates but also in the work they do each and every day.

Before I conclude, I also take the opportunity to acknowledge Dr Jonathan Shirley, who is in the gallery. Dr Shirley is a senior consultant anaesthetist here in Queensland. He has made an important contribution to health care in Queensland and I welcome him to the parliament today. I commend the report to the House. I commend the reforms that the Crisafulli LNP state government has implemented in relation to the estimates process for 2025.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (12.26 pm): I rise to respond to report No. 11 as well. I want to start by placing on record my appreciation for the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the clerks for their dedication and, quite frankly, their stamina throughout the 2025 estimates and also all of the parliamentary staff for their work. This institution relies on their professionalism and this estimates they delivered, so thank you.

What this year's estimates did reveal is that the parliamentary arm of the government has been turned into a shield for the LNP ministers. No longer is it a means to scrutinise them, and that was the result of a deliberate political decision by the LNP executive. Yes, for the first time in Queensland's history, every estimates hearing was chaired by the LNP appointed Speaker or Deputy Speaker, and the Clerk confirmed this. He also confirmed that the 70-30 rule, which guaranteed the majority of time for non-government questions, was scrapped. What did that mean in practice? It meant more rehearsed speeches, less time for scrutiny and ministers reading from scripts. The LNP said that the estimates process was broken and they promised reform, but what they did was make it worse and they made it wasteful.

When it comes to waste, the greatest waste of time was the abuse of points of order. Across the nine days of estimates, based on opposition analysis, there were 830 points of order; 61 per cent came from government members and 39 per cent came from non-government members, which were all legitimate attempts to enforce the rules and the standing orders. Who led the charge to waste this parliament's time? It was none other than the Leader of the House. As we have heard, the Leader of the House was responsible for 26 per cent of all of those points of order. They were not to clarify procedures and they were not to uphold order; they were to chew up time, derail questioning and give ministers the cover they were so desperately seeking.

For the benefit of the House, I will table a statistical analysis—I have a second copy for the Leader of the House's benefit—which proves that the LNP had just one purpose in these estimates—that is, to derail scrutiny—and the Leader of the House was its device. That is disappointing because, I must say—and others have noted this as well—after seeing the performance of the LNP ministers, we sympathise with the member for Moggill. We sympathise because his talents that were on display throughout estimates prove that he himself should have been one of the ministers responding to those questions. He should be a member of the cabinet, as opposed to some of his lacklustre colleagues.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Points of Order'.

One of the big questions about these estimates is what happened to transparency. Let's remember that these hearings covered the operations of this parliament—the house of democracy, the people's house. The only two material changes were that estimates must now be chaired by the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker and that the guaranteed time for non-government members is gone. That is not reform; that is a big broken promise. I cannot see how anything this Premier says in this parliament could be believed. If he is not willing to tell the truth about something as simple as the estimates process, it is hard to see how he is ever going to be honest or can be trusted on any matter of substance.

What are the consequences, then, for Queenslanders? What does this mean for them? It means less scrutiny of this government, it means less accountability of this government and it means taxpayer dollars wasted protecting his ministers' political image. It meant that some questions that matter were not asked because there was not the time. The LNP did not fix estimates; it fixed it to work for it. That falls squarely at the feet of Premier David Crisafulli. That is why I support Labor's statement of reservation. It clearly shows that the estimates process has been weakened and that the promise of reform was in fact broken.

Let me close by again thanking the staff and acknowledging the role of the presiding officers. The Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's decisions and rulings, to be clear, during those hearings are not

in question; what is in question is the way the LNP has politicised this process and wasted public money to shield its ministers. This was not reform; it was a reversal.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.


Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Appropriation Bill

Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The question is—

That the report of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee be adopted.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.33 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of report No. 12, *2025-26 budget estimates—Appropriation Bill 2025*, of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee. The responsibilities for our committee are to look at the appropriations specifically for the Premier and Minister for Veterans; the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership; and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. I intend to just brush over some of the findings from those particular ministers. With regard to the recommendation of the committee, as the report states—

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

I think that is a very important point that needs to be made.

Turning now to the Premier's contribution, may I be so bold as to say that it was an outstanding contribution, because a lot of it was spent talking about the state seat of Coomera. I was so pleased to hear my neighbour just across the Coomera River, the Premier, talking about what we were doing in the state seat of Coomera, after a decade of negligence by those opposite when they were in government. First of all he spoke—he waxed lyrical, you could even say—about exit 45 and the fact that we will be delivering exit 45. The amazing notification that I received just the other day was that they are undertaking an expression of interest, calling for someone to do the planning and the drawings to work out exactly how we are going to build exit 45. At the same time, they are already doing the geotechnical work. I am also aware that we will be asking Canberra for a bit of a contribution towards exit 45.

Exit 54, which is Foxwell Road, is indeed the second busiest road on the Gold Coast. A lot of work has to be done on exit 54 and the surrounds, both north and south of exit 54. In terms of the amount of work that has to be undertaken there to resolve the problems, the commitment in the budget and the commitment in the election was that we will do the planning for that and we will work out how we are going to go about fixing it.

Stage 2 of the Coomera Connector is going along as well. Yes, we have the opening of stage 1 north. By the way, stage 1 north is opening 10 months early because of the intervention of the Crisafulli government in the way that it was brought—

Mrs Poole: Hear, hear—on time and on budget!

Mr CRANDON: Yes, thank you—well and truly ahead of budget and back to being on time. It is opening 10 months earlier than it would have been under the Labor government, so that is something that we were able to do.

The Coomera Hospital was also an important aspect of the commitment for us to fix the problem. Sadly, it is going to be a massive blowout because of the mismanagement of those opposite over the years. After four years, all we have is elevator towers coming up out of the ground—it took them four years to get to that—but we will fix that. We will deliver 600 hospital beds instead of 400 hospital beds as promised by those opposite. We will deliver a hospital that is needed on the northern Gold Coast in its entirety.

The big one for the Treasurer was the introduction of the Productivity Commission and the work it is doing, and the first cab off the rank for the Productivity Commission was an inquiry into opportunities to improve the productivity of the Queensland construction industry. I hear everyone say, 'Hear, hear!'

Government members: Hear, hear.

Mr CRANDON: That is what we need. We need some answers in that regard.

The last one from the finance minister—the biggie from the finance minister—was to announce \$403,000 towards Esuarve on the northern Gold Coast for continuing its work. It is worth mentioning Ari Travis, the South-East Queensland Vocational Student of the Year from Esuarve. He is going up against all others at the Queensland Training Awards in September.

(Time expired)



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (12.38 pm): My contribution to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee report will be focused on the structural reform and the fresh start that was given as part of that. Nobody summed it up better than the Leader of the House, who describes it as stronger, fairer, more accountable. I think that is an excellent contribution, and it was all of those things.

I want to start by placing on record my appreciation for the role of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. They certainly sat in that chamber for many hours. In fact, there was only one individual who spent more time in the chamber than the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. I know how modest Dr Rowan is, so I will not praise him. Suffice it to say, it was an excellent effort from him in staying there throughout the hearings over long periods of time, and I do thank him for the structure that he provided.

I was able earlier today, in my contribution in this place, to talk a little bit about some of the other reforms. I will touch on it again, because it is important that I place it on record in this forum as well. The additional day, as well as the additional hours and the ability for the 50-50 split—in fact, there was more time afforded to the opposition than the government—sends a signal that the estimates process matters. It is ideal that I follow the member for Coomera, because his contribution to this debate shows how seriously he took the estimates process. He used it as a vehicle to push and probe and get answers for his constituency. I think that is an important part of the democratic process.

Estimates needs to be a vehicle for two things. The opposition needs to use the opportunity to hold the executive accountable—some would argue there was not a lot of preparation for some of the sections, but the opposition and the crossbench need to do that. Likewise, government members also need to use the opportunity to drill down into specific things for their electorate. I have to say, across the board, the way that members of the government used that is good for their electorates, and it is also good for ministers to be tested on their portfolio about individual elements that relate to different parts of this great state. I thought that was very well done.

The budget does what we said we would do. The first budget has been well received across the state. The opposition barely used the first question time after the budget to try to poke holes in the budget, because universally it has been well received as a budget that does what we said we were going to do. That is what good governments do. In many cases, the estimates process should be the opportunity to scrutinise the expenditure of the executive. I believe that we have a Treasurer who does respect people's money. That is important. Taxpayers work hard. They make a contribution and they need to know that a government will respect their money at all times.

We spoke about easier access to health services. We spoke about housing. We spoke about the youth crime crisis. We spoke about some of the cost-of-living initiatives that we have implemented. It is important that I speak about that, because cost of living remains front and centre in the minds of Queenslanders. What are we doing about it? Every decision we take as a government is about how we can lower those structural costs and help people in the decisions that government takes to ensure their money is respected. We have the \$100 Back to School Boost, which enables a connection between student and school. We have \$200 sports Play On! vouchers, which were not funded beyond the forwards. They are now locked in at record levels, with record amounts for the regions and the ability for those with disability to tap into it. There are the free kindy health checks and indexed electricity rebates for vulnerable families. We axed the patient tax, we removed stamp duty on all new builds for first home owners, there is the \$20 million Returning to Work support for women re-entering the workforce, and there is a program that was never funded beyond the forwards—that is, 50 cent fares. On coming to office we decided to make a long-term decision to make them permanent and lock them in.

Finally, I want to place on record my deep thanks to everyone involved in the process: the parliamentary staff and not only the members of parliament but also the departmental staff. A lot of work goes into estimates from directors-general and public servants right throughout the process. Even if there are certain questions that may not be answered, the process of going through and doing that makes us a better government.



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (12.44 pm): It is a pleasure to rise in this debate. The Premier talked about what they are doing on cost of living. One thing the current government is not doing is


giving a discount on car rego that was enjoyed by so many Queenslanders. Getting rid of that represents an increase in car rego of 24 per cent for many Queensland families. They are also not delivering that highly valued electricity rebate. We brought in that electricity rebate when we were in government and so many struggling working Queensland families said, 'Thank you. You saved us from this, that or the other.' What we gave back to ordinary working Queensland families from the assets they owned was hugely appreciated. The answer to the question of what they are doing about cost of living is 'not that much'.

What we did learn from this first estimates by the LNP government is that they have not kept their word and they cannot keep their promises. Firstly, they promised to keep Queenslanders safer. Queenslanders I talk to do not feel the LNP is making them safer. They do feel that the LNP is massaging crime statistics. We heard the LNP say before the election that they would fix what they called a youth crime crisis. They did not tell us that they would cherry-pick the data after the election. We heard in estimates about their handling of the victims of crime statistics. What we did learn through the estimates is that the tradie who has his tools stolen from a ute is not counted as a victim of crime. The LNP promised to drive down the number of victims of crime—I heard a minister say that this morning—but it is clear that they want to do that by massaging the data. They will literally reduce the numbers of victims of crime but not the actual number of Queenslanders who have been victims.

Secondly, before the election the Premier stated that he would deliver top-class health services where people live. What he did not say was that the LNP would spend more on advertising their hospital construction plan than on a campaign to encourage Queenslanders to get flu vaccinations. Thirdly, the Premier promised that his ministers would be held accountable: if they did not do their job, off they would go. What we saw in estimates was an extraordinary effort to protect those poorly performing LNP ministers. As the *Courier-Mail* reported, the member for Moggill ran a heavy protection cordon around ministers—leaping in to stop proceedings when the questioning got a little too hot for the government.

The efforts to protect the member for Mudgeeraba were badly needed. Have we ever seen a worse performance in estimates? In estimates we heard about a disaster where there were two explosions. We are not talking about the Callide Power Station; we are talking about the member for Mudgeeraba's ministerial career—two explosions, or two implosions. She has been her own documented disaster. Let me give members an illustration of how poorly the minister performed in estimates. There were 10 questions to the minister from us. One was put to the minister four times. The minister was protected by 14 points of order—five on one question. The minister drew seven points of order from us on relevance. Not one of those 10 questions was adequately answered by the minister.

The minister could not even answer a question about who was messaging her about Callide, even though we had obtained those messages through freedom of information. Incidentally, the minister said that she got a message from a member of the public about Callide. Can I ask which members of the public around that area have the minister's mobile number? The minister could not even handle questions from her own people. There were 20 government questions in finance, trade and training. Nine went to the minister; 11 went to directors-general and CEOs. The minister got less than half the Dixers. They could not even trust her to answer the Dixers. In conclusion, the LNP said that this process was an opportunity for them to deliver on their promises. They have not delivered on their promise for a fresh start.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (12.49 pm): I rise in consideration of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee report No. 12. I would like to thank all witnesses who appeared before the committee including the Public Sector Commission, the Queensland Audit Office, Treasury staff, Department of Trade, Employment and Training staff, along with the parliamentary staff who assisted in the committee hearing process.

When the Premier took office he promised reform, transparency and accountability. He promised a fresh start. Instead, what we have witnessed through these estimates processes is a government that speaks loudly about change but acts sneakily to protect itself from scrutiny. A common theme during the estimates process of the Crisafulli government was a refusal to answer questions and an inability to provide clarity. Queenslanders are feeling burned and they need answers.

A lot of revelations were made throughout the estimates process, part of which included answers on the housing crisis and a lot of which involved inaction. Ministers were unable to answer questions on what is being done to solve skills shortages. We heard Dorothy Dixers from government members including answers that we had already received to questions on notice. The Treasurer received many Dorothy Dixers about what Treasury is delivering for Queenslanders in particular electorates. I also asked the Treasurer what the Sandgate electorate is getting. To my disappointment, all I received was


a link. I did not receive a 10-minute answer such as government members received, so I put it on the record that Sandgate missed out.

When it comes to TAFE, the government's priorities are made clear by the minister's refusal to meet with Queensland Teachers' Union representatives, instead deflecting to the education minister and ignoring the thousands of TAFE teachers and the QTU who deserve better pay, answers and at least a meeting with the minister. It is hard to imagine this government taking a genuine approach to improving TAFE when they replaced multiple board members, months ahead of their term completions, with loyal LNP donors. When asked about free TAFE, the minister dodged and ducked, referring only to the federal government funding that was being delivered. The federal government's free TAFE funding is not enough to cover the existing program without support from the state government. Right now, Queensland needs more nurses, more teachers and more tradies. We cannot afford to take opportunities from people who want to be in those industries.

The Crisafulli government committed to making home ownership a possibility for every Queenslanders, but their work proves how out of touch they are when it comes to taking down barriers and allowing people to enter home ownership. They are people like Leah, from Bracken Ridge in my electorate. Leah is a single mother who escaped domestic violence and is now trapped in the rental market because she co-owned property with her ex-partner and is ineligible for any of the government's assistance programs. She is not a first home buyer. She is one of many single parents facing that reality across Queensland. When we tried to ask the minister responsible about the initiative designed to boost home ownership, he deflected to the housing minister. Their rent-a-room scheme is not even collecting data. He did not answer any questions on how it will be delivered and how its effectiveness is going to be measured. We can only wonder whether it is a matter of incompetence or intentional oversight when it comes to this issue.

When it comes to investing in our futures, the Crisafulli government is failing to do what matters most. In what seemed to be a trend during estimates, the Minister for Energy continued to deflect questions on renewable energy, saying that we should ask questions of the environment minister, who deflected them right back to him. My question to the government is: if it is not the energy minister and it is not the environment minister, who is responsible for renewable energy in Queensland? Before the election, the LNP committed to upholding Labor's emissions target for a 75 per cent reduction by 2032. This is now another broken election promise. We know they do not care about renewable energy because, on the weekend at the LNP convention, they voted to abandon net zero policy targets. They did that because they are completely out of touch.

This budget's process was supposed to be different. It was supposed to embark on a journey of transparency and accountability but, unfortunately, that is not what Queenslanders saw. Queenslanders deserve a government that keeps its promises and embraces transparency. They were promised a fresh start, but all they have is a backward government that does not care for their future.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.53 pm): I thank the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee and all committees for their detailed examination of the Crisafulli government's first budget. I was pleased to appear before the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to discuss my portfolio areas of treasury, home ownership and energy.

As I said in my opening statement, this budget is delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for, that honours our election commitments and that lays the foundation to repair a decade of fiscal vandalism under Labor while saving the jobs and services that the former government did not budget for. I had hoped that, a month after it was handed down, the opposition may have finally done some work and come up with some tough questioning on our first budget. Better yet, I had hoped that finally they would have made their mea culpa and found a way to apologise to the people of Queensland for a decade of decline. However, the member for Waterford and her colleagues did not apologise.

I want to take some time to look at the statement of reservation handed down by those opposite, because Labor attempted to spin the reality—again claiming that we are not continuing to provide relief on energy bills or car registration. The fact is that in their last budget those opposite put nothing—not one dollar—in the forward estimates towards energy rebates or the car registration discount. In fact, we know that they spent more on advertising on the back of the budget papers—those discounts turned rebates—than they actually put in the forward estimates themselves. They even admitted it in the budget papers for their last budget. They called those measures 'temporary elevated levels of assistance' or 'temporary relief measures' that would be 'wound back'. That is what they did. That is the wording from a budget that the member for Waterford signed off on and one that she called a 'great

Labor budget', but now, along with the members for Woodridge and Murrumba, she is walking away from her own record.

In contrast, let us look at our record. We have provided targeted, timely, responsible and recurrent cost-of-living relief through a 3.8 per cent increase for 600,000 vulnerable households that rely on the energy rebate, the \$200 Play On! vouchers and the \$100 Back to School Boost, but it is not just that. Labor again sought to peddle the narrative around government indexation rates, despite our increase being in line with Labor's last increase and lower than that in Labor's first four years in office.

When the member for Woodridge announced their 3.4 per cent government indexation rating, he said that it was set in line with wages growth. The rate for 2025-26 is below wages growth, which is currently at 3.6 per cent in Queensland. The member for Waterford returned to her claim that the \$23 billion in allowances we made at MYFER for legacy issues and underfunded service across government was not in the budget. As I have said repeatedly, she needs to work harder because we have actually added \$30.3 billion in expenditure between 2025-26 and 2027-28 compared to the last budget handed down by those opposite. It is not \$23 billion; it is \$30.3 billion.

I will turn very briefly to my portfolio of home ownership, which the member for Sandgate just mentioned. It was a bizarre performance from the member for Gaven, who was unable to ask any questions whatsoever in relation to my portfolio. Most of the questions she asked were, in fact, for the housing minister. The member for Gaven had not done the work necessary to understand the administrative arrangements. A cursory glance at those administrative arrangements would have made clear for her the appropriateness of the question she was asking.

It was another embarrassing performance from the member for Bundamba in relation to the energy portfolio. It is clear that our government is focused on delivering an energy road map, an energy policy and energy settings that are based on engineering and economics, not ideology. Labor neglected our energy system and presided over the failed maintenance program that led to the C4 outage that lasted for 1,193 days. We are fixing the mess they left behind. Our \$1.6 billion Electricity Maintenance Guarantee is restoring reliability to our state owned generators.


We will always focus on what matters to the people of Queensland. I want to thank the committee secretariat, the public servants, the finance minister and everybody who made a contribution to the estimates process. I thank the committee for their hard work.

Debate, on motion of Mr Janetzki, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Health System

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Before I start, I would like to place on record my acknowledgement of the unfolding situation in Victoria, where two dedicated police officers have been confirmed dead and another injured. I know all Queenslanders will join with me in saying that our thoughts are with the police both in Victoria and around the country who work hard each and every day. It is a harrowing reminder of the risks our police expose themselves to in order to keep us safe.

It is disturbing to see reports showing the number of Queenslanders hospitalised with the flu has hit a new high-water mark in recent days. In fact, those reports suggest that even when the total number of reported infections dips the number of those hospitalised continues to grow. That means more people are really unwell and have to be admitted to hospital. It is something that Queensland Health plan for each and every year, but they also plan for Queenslanders to be vaccinated and protected from the flu at much higher rates.

What we have seen this year, at far higher rates than before, is that the vast majority of those hospitalised have not been vaccinated. At estimates, the director-general of Health said, of those hospitalised, more than 80 per cent had not had their flu shot. It is hard to fathom, but when you look at the big picture Queensland is lagging. We have some of the lowest flu vaccination rates across all age groups in the nation. That depressing reality is not surprising when you consider the complete absence of leadership on these matters from the Premier, his deputy and the completely ineffectual health minister. All we have heard from this government is confusing—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Leader of the Opposition, the minister has taken offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. All we have heard from this government is confusing mixed messages, which only serve to fuel anti-vax sentiment. The Premier and Deputy Premier refuse to even say whether they themselves have received the flu vaccination, as if to do so would inflame tensions within the LNP's lunatic fringe—the anti-vaxxers. Not only is it pandering to the extremist views of ideologically unhinged fringe dwellers; it is also a failure of leadership. It is a failure to take seriously the responsibility for public health that accompanies the offices that those opposite occupy.

The Premier's suggestion that only doctors are qualified to advise on vaccination is an insult to the hardworking nurses and pharmacists qualified to administer vaccines. Pharmacists, in fact, have been our secret vaccinating weapon in recent years, making vaccinations safe and convenient in every part of the state. This is something the Premier should be supporting, not opposing.

Compounding the leadership failures of the Premier and Deputy Premier are the Crisafulli government's twisted, distorted priorities. The Crisafulli government spent three times as many taxpayer dollars promoting the government than it spent promoting the free flu vaccine. The direct consequence of those wrong priorities is that fewer people are vaccinated, more Queenslanders are in hospital and hospitals are under stress. These failures are part of a pattern of behaviour by the Crisafulli government—a government that primarily governs in the interests of itself, not in the interests of everyday Queenslanders.

Quality health care close to home is the No. 1 responsibility of government, and it is where this government has failed most spectacularly. The Premier promised 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028. Instead, the LNP scrapped Labor's plans for new hospitals at Coomera, Bundaberg and Toowoomba and a new cancer care centre in Brisbane. These desperately needed new builds now have no completion date. Even the chief executives of the health services who will be running these hospitals could not say when they will be completed. The 11 other major hospital expansions have also been delayed, putting the health care of Queenslanders at risk. The LNP said there would be no cuts to health, but its budget reveals there is \$2.5 billion less for employee expenses over the forward estimates, meaning there will be fewer frontline staff and more pressure on those who remain.

The past two weeks have plagued the government because of their inappropriate interference in the appointment of an eminently qualified chief health officer for what appears to be overtly political reasons. That is not just concerning; it is against the law. It was reported in the paper today that it was the Premier who gave his advice seemingly directly to the director-general of Health that Dr Hajkowicz should not be appointed to the role, despite an independent merit-based selection panel having chosen him. While the opposition notes the responses of the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Health this morning, we do not buy it one bit.

It has also been reported that the position was rescinded because in 2021 Dr Hajkowicz withdrew from accepting the CHO role, but this 2021 withdrawal was considered by the selection panel during the appointment process and they still found him to be the most meritorious candidate. I will say that again: the panel considered that withdrawal and still deemed him to be the most meritorious candidate. What does the Premier know that a panel of independent experts do not? Why was the Deputy Premier's office briefing journalists that their decision was influenced by the fact his family members had political views?

The opposition has heard from whistleblowers that the director-general of Health is not happy with the position he has been put in by this LNP government. He is not happy that after appointing Dr Hajkowicz as the Chief Health Officer he then had to take the contract off the table, and nor should he be. Directors-general should not be put in the position of having to change the decisions they have appropriately made to suit their political masters. This was an inappropriate action taken at the inappropriate urging of the Premier himself. Queensland could have a permanent chief health officer right now—someone who could take charge and provide clear public health advice as we grapple with a major influx of flu cases and an inundation of our public hospitals and someone who could clarify that, contrary to the advice of the Premier, Queenslanders should go to their pharmacy and get vaccinated—but we do not, and we will not have one for some time as the recruitment process plays out again.

It does not stop there. We learned that the neonatal unit at the Sunshine Coast hospital was on bypass for up to two days, meaning vulnerable mums and bubs were sent to Brisbane, all without a single word from this government. It has been reported that the former director-general of Queensland Health is back. This time they are a contractor with a \$1.5 million pay packet, which really makes you wonder how the Treasurer will ever hit the savings target he came up with.

Most concerning, it has been reported that some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders—victims of rape and sexual assault—have not been getting the trauma informed care they need at our public hospitals. The ABC reported that rape victims who present at Caboolture, Redcliffe or Kilcoy hospitals are being transferred hours away to RBWH.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, I could not hear your leader for a moment because of your interjections. Stop quarrelling across the chamber, please.

Mr MILES: That is not just a failure in health care; it is traumatising for those victims. Advocates have even reported that this sort of delay can sometimes result in victims of sexual assault and rape deciding not to go through with a complaint.

Instead of delivering the timely care that vulnerable Queenslanders need, this government instead chooses to stoke the ideological flame. Just this weekend the Premier called on the LNP party faithful to focus on kitchen table issues and not get distracted by ideological issues. Not 48 hours later, the Premier has already walked back from his own words. The Premier and this LNP government are driven and controlled by dark political currents—a government that are captive to the extreme priorities on their lunatic fringe. With this Premier it is always about the LNP's party politics, never about public health policy.

In stark contrast, Labor stands firm by the priorities of everyday Queenslanders. Labor will always put patients before politics and we will always invest in the hospitals, the doctors, the nurses and the paramedics that Queenslanders rely on.

Victoria Police, Deaths; Health System

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.10 pm): As the Attorney-General of Queensland, on behalf of the government I also put on record our thoughts and prayers for the fallen Victorian police officers. Our thoughts and prayers go to their families. They go to all Victorians. I know that frontline police officers across Australia will be in deep distress right now for their fallen brothers and sisters.

It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition—a failed former health minister—wants to talk about putting issues on the record. Let me put something on the record. I will get to the rape kits very soon. Let us talk a bit about health. Let us talk about the flu cases in this great state under successive failed former health ministers in the former Labor government. From 1 January to 17 August 2024 there were 62,993 flu cases. Of course, that is 62,993 too many. Under the new health minister and the Crisafulli government that is putting the health and safety of Queenslanders first, from 1 January to 17 August 2025 there have been 5,030 fewer flu cases. The number is still too high at 57,963.

Why are there fewer cases? We are spending \$150,000 more on advertising. We started it earlier and we will finish it later. If the opposition leader, as a failed health minister, wants some issues put on the record, he should really talk about that. He could also talk about the Crisafulli government's \$1.8 billion record investment to stabilise the elective surgery waitlist. We saw the biggest drop in the elective surgery waitlist in April of 2,750 patients. Remember that it was the failed former health minister, the now opposition leader, and his friends over there—the former Labor government—who presided over the highest ambulance ramping in the nation at 45 per cent.

I do not know why the opposition leader thinks he can come in here and even utter the word 'health'. His front knows no bounds. How dare he come in here and talk about the rape victims of this state. Those opposite did not care about rape victims. What about the rape victim in Rockhampton?

Mr O'Connor: Ten years of decline.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. It was 10 years of decline. The young woman was from Gladstone, if I am remembering correctly. She fronted up in Rocky to get a rape test. Do members know what she was told under the former government—it was probably the opposition leader as the then health minister? She was told to go home and take a photograph. When we came in here and asked about the rape kits—asked about the rural and regional rape kits—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Pine Rivers and member for Currumbin, your quarrelling is disorderly. The Attorney-General has the call and she will be heard.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: There is no greater failure of any government—

Mr Healy: Than you.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I take offence and I would ask him to withdraw. I am standing here on behalf of rape victims—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you have taken personal offence—

Mr HEALY: I withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is the type of misogynistic behaviour that I have had to put up with in this chamber for 12 years. It is the women on this side who are always standing up for women. We are the ones who said—

Mr HEALY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at those comments and I would ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one moment. I am going to seek some advice.


Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, member for Logan and member for Currumbin, I will seek advice in silence, please. Member for Cairns, I thank you for your point of order. I understood the comment made by the Attorney was of a more general nature so there is no point of order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This is the hypocrisy of those opposite, who have left rape victims waiting for over 400 days because of the DNA debacle. It is those opposite who time and time again let women give birth on the side of the road over 10 years of Labor's decline. Where were they standing up for women? They sit there and shake their heads. They hate when a person on this side of the House has the common sense to do something about the debacle. You can shake your heads all you like, but it took 400 days for rape victims to get DNA results.

Do members know what they did with the money for outsourcing? They decided to build a demountable office. They decided to invest in equipment and not open the boxes. They never invested in the victims. They do not believe in faster access to justice. It is up to the Crisafulli government to stand up for the women of Queensland.

Chief Health Officer, Appointment

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.17 pm): The ongoing and unresolved Chief Health Officer scandal under this Crisafulli LNP government demonstrates an already dysfunctional government incapable of making merit-based appointments after a global recruitment process that they established themselves. 'Let the sun shine in', they said before the election. All we get is a return to the bad old days. This should have been a straightforward 101 matter, yet it dogs the government day after day as their lame excuses fall flat, fail and freefall.

What an extraordinary question time we had this morning. Perhaps question time should be renamed 'non-answer time' after more desperate attempts this morning by government ministers to avoid answering questions, to stonewall and to fill as much time as possible with waffle and deliberate delay tactics to avoid the truth. The Premier and the ministers were full of it this morning.

An eight-month merit-based recruitment process for one of the most important health positions in this state has been overturned due to government interference. Premier Crisafulli admitted as much in a startling article in the *Courier-Mail* today. Premier Crisafulli admitted this morning that he did directly inform the director-general of Queensland Health that the government 'had concerns' with the successful Chief Health Officer candidate, as recommended by an expert medical panel, for reasons that were already considered by the panel and were in fact totally irrelevant to the process as they happened nearly half a decade ago, in 2021.

'Had concerns' clearly conveys to the director-general that the government opposed the appointment. There can be no other interpretation possible. The Premier, after the position had already been offered by the director-general of Queensland Health, called the director-general directly and heavied the director-general to rescind his offer, either directly or by implication. Otherwise, why else would Premier Crisafulli have called the director-general of Queensland Health in the first place? That was the purpose of the call.

Now Premier Crisafulli attempts to mislead Queenslanders by stating it was only his 'opinion'. What director-general in their right mind gets a call from a premier, hears out the point being made,

puts the phone down and says to themselves, 'That's just his opinion. I'll ignore it'? I will tell members who would do that—a very short-lived director-general. That is who.


For the Premier to state he was just offering an 'opinion' when clearly he was calling the director-general to influence and change the director-general's decision on an appointment through a merit-based selection process by a panel of medical experts is one of the most dishonest and deceptive things I have heard him say. That was then topped by Premier Crisafulli's statement that he was 'just trying to give the doctor as much respect as possible' when the Premier had just knifed him for the Chief Health Officer role that he had won on merit. I will say those words again—'on merit'.

What we see is darkness descending on Queensland, and it starts with the deceptions and dishonesty of Premier Crisafulli. When this matter first arose earlier this month, we got silence for days from the government, hoping it would blow over. Then we saw a government leak to Channel 9 on 13 August outlining the real reason Dr Hajkowicz did not get the job. Apparently his house had a 'Save Victoria Park' corflute on the front fence and had previously had a political party corflute that was not the LNP's. It was a fascinating and damaging leak. The only question is: was it the health minister who leaked on the Premier or was it the Deputy Premier? Who was it? Who leaked those details to the media for them to report it? One thing is for sure: while neither one will confess, somebody leaked it—somebody leaked the real reason. This government's most senior ministers are incapable of endorsing a successful applicant of a normal merit-based recruitment process and are incapable of not leaking when it goes bad.

Then we saw this 'forward facing' fantasy trotted out about a circumstance related to four years ago that had already been considered. This is a dysfunctional government under siege already, haemorrhaging support and we are not even one year into their term. In question time today we saw the Deputy Premier refusing to say whether he was involved in the scandal at all—we can presume that he was; the refusal of the government to say why they know better than an expert panel of medical experts; a refusal by the health minister to release the statement of reasons for the refusal of the position; and the health minister swaggering about, proud that Queensland is trailing the national average on vaccination rates in every single age group while our hospitals clog up with patients, oblivious to outcomes and taking no responsibility for the 127 deaths this year.

This is an extraordinarily bad government. They are dysfunctional, and their silence is absolutely deafening today.

Women

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (2.22 pm): For too long Labor has said one thing but done another. When it comes to Queensland women, Labor is more worried about language and narratives than actual justice for victims. They say they support women, but the reality is starkly different. We have seen the collusion and cover-ups of CFMEU violence, abuse, thuggery and misogyny. Senior Labor ministers were not only silent but were enabled by that silence to be in this parliament. They are complicit to the coercion. They are complicit to the misogyny. Still they will not stand up and speak out against the CFMEU's bullying and thuggery towards women and men in Queensland.

Let's talk about Labor's failure—one of the most significant failures in the justice system—to women who have been raped and who are waiting for justice. Because of Labor's ineptitude and cover-ups, it was taking more than 400 days for rape kits to be tested due to Labor's forensic lab debacle. It is a horrendous experience for anybody to be raped, but then for those women or for any victim seeking justice to know that they have to wait more than 400 days to have those kits tested through the appropriate mechanisms to potentially have the offender held to account, to know that there is that delay in justice, is retraumatising. It is a terrible thing, yet we still do not see an acknowledgement from the other side. This is one of the worst failures.

Mrs Gerber: Didn't stand up and apologise.

Ms SIMPSON: There has been no apology. This is one of the worst failures, and under whose watch did it happen? The member for Waterford, as the then health minister and minister for women—and who, at the time, also had a key role as a permanent member of Labor's CBRC, which oversees the budget—has to answer why and should apologise to the women of Queensland who have been through this horrendous situation.

We have now found out, thanks to the work of my colleagues—and I particularly acknowledge the Attorney-General's contribution—that a good chunk of the funding that was supposed to go towards

clearing the backlog of forensic tests went into new buildings. Nearly \$20 million was siphoned off into new buildings. That would have been approved by the CBRC. Queensland's worst minister for women, the now shadow minister, the member for Waterford, was on the CBRC and allowed the diversion of funding from clearing the backlog of DNA tests which would have held offenders to account in the justice system in a more timely way. It is a laughing matter to some members opposite. I hear them guffawing and carrying on. This is one of the most significant justice failures we have seen.

Let's look at some of the other failures of Labor to Queensland women. Under Labor in this state we saw more than 30 maternity services closed down or bypassed. We had a decade of decline under Labor. The Crisafulli government is now having to fix that in 10 months and is delivering new outcomes. Under Labor, women were giving birth on the side of the road due to maternity services having been closed.

Ms Grace interjected.


Mr Healy interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, member for McConnel and member for Cairns! Your interjections are not being taken.

Ms SIMPSON: In stark contrast to 10 years of decline under Labor, we have 10 months of delivery under the Crisafulli LNP government, with justice for rape victims, justice for victims of coercion, justice for victims of domestic violence, the reinstatement of maternity services and delivering a clean water supply to women in regional and remote communities so they can safely bathe their babies and feed their children.

It is time for that kind of leadership and we are delivering it under the LNP Crisafulli government—leadership that embodies Australian values and believes in the power of aspiration and contribution. We believe that leaders should stand up against injustice and right the wrongs, as the Attorney-General, the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence have been doing today, as have my other colleagues in the Crisafulli government. That is leadership. There is need for that leadership after Labor failed the women of this state. The biggest failure, as I have said, is that of the forensic lab. That is one of the worst failures in Australia, yet still there has been no apology. Let's see if there is going to be an apology from the member for Waterford now.

LNP State Conference

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (2.27 pm): Some interesting things happened over the weekend. I think some of the actions that happened over the weekend tell Queenslanders everything they need to know about the LNP. At their conference, the LNP women's branch was thrown into chaos. Members apparently walked out. Who came out on top? A candidate whose claim to fame is being an outspoken anti-abortion activist. This is who now sits on the LNP's powerful state executive. This is who David Crisafulli is letting shape his party's agenda.

He can say all he likes about 'modernising', but the truth is his party is captured by the far right. Queensland women should be very worried because, when it comes to women's rights, those opposite cannot be trusted. We saw it in estimates. The Minister for Women referred to her previous comments on the termination of pregnancy—she would not say what they were. She had to read a note passed by her chief of staff to say that she referred to her previous comments—which, for the record, is that she voted to keep abortion a crime here in Queensland.

It would now seem that the LNP have installed someone as president who wants to wind back hard fought for protections for women—someone who has lobbied and protested against a woman's right to choose in Queensland. I thought that was pretty bad. Then I read in the paper on Monday morning that the LNP have signalled that they want to review the 'generosity' of paid domestic and family violence leave.

Today we have been lectured to by those opposite about our track record on delivering for women, but I note that none of the women opposite have used their opportunity today in the House to call this out and say, 'We support victims of domestic and family violence and we do not think paid domestic and family violence leave is too generous.' We have not heard any of them stand up and denounce the LNP branch members who determined that domestic and family violence leave is too generous. Let's be clear: this leave is not a luxury. This leave is not too generous. It is there so that victim-survivors can attend court, see a doctor, organise counselling or flee their home safely. Every single day, women rely on this protection. So many women have sought paid leave from their employer

and from the Queensland government as a result of the violence they are experiencing. To call it into question is disgraceful. The Premier should apologise to Queenslanders who are relying on this leave to escape violence, because threatening to take it away and describing it as too generous is undermining the safety so many women have fought hard to achieve.

It does not stop there. Over the weekend, under this Premier the LNP also wants to repeal hate crime laws. These laws protect people from being targeted because of their race, religion, sexuality and gender identity. Let's call this what it is: a green light to discrimination and vilification. After listening to the contribution of the member for Whitsunday in question time this morning, it is obvious they are not even waiting for the Premier to repeal these laws before they start attacking transgender Queenslanders.

Ms Camm interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: It was not an attack on me, member for Whitsunday; it was an attack on transgender Queenslanders. This is not some side issue from the conference—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Whitsunday and members on my left, I lost the member for Waterford for a few minutes, so you might want to keep it down a bit.

Ms FENTIMAN: Rather than standing up today and talking about the issues facing women in Queensland, like men's violence or the economic inequality women face, they want to talk about culture wars and cheap politics imported from Donald Trump and the US. That is exactly the sort of comment the Premier stood up on the weekend and said they need to steer clear off. The member for Whitsunday clearly has a very different idea.

When faced with the choice to unite or divide, the LNP always reaches for division because that is who they are. This is a pattern. At every turn the LNP sides with extremists. They undermine protections for victim-survivors. They want to roll back laws on abortion and hate crime and they come in here and call it tokenistic to wear purple to support the queer community—

(Time expired)

Beveridge, Mr F; Carmichael Coalmine

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.32 pm): 'Leadership defined by vision, commitment, energy and a deep belief in the potential and future of regional Queensland.' That is how the LGAQ described the former mayor of Charters Towers Regional Council, Frank Beveridge, who lost his battle with cancer in recent days.

I first met Frank during my time as a police officer in Charters Towers. My first impression of Frank was similar to those who had known him for years. Frank was committed to his region, to its people and to serving his community. Frank described his service as an honour, while others describe it as dedicated and unwavering. That is a fair description of a man who spent more than 20 of his 61 years as councillor or mayor. As Frank's family told the *Townsville Bulletin*, Frank made things happen, no matter how difficult. When it came to representing his region, Frank was a fierce advocate who put people ahead of politics.

Away from his advocacy, Frank's first love was his family. He had recently welcomed his fourth grandchild. Frank was extremely proud of his family, but he was not one to sit still. He had climbed to base camp on Mount Everest, travelled extensively in Australia and taken his children to the Great Wall of China. Frank's toughest challenge was his battle with cancer. Like the true fighter he was, he beat cancer once. Almost immediately after he was given the all clear, he nominated to serve his community again. Diagnosed a second time, Frank did not back down. Instead, he tackled the gruelling Tatts Finke Desert Race. For Frank, the result did not matter; it was about finishing what he started. Whether it was the desert or tackling cancer, Frank took the tough times head-on. Today we pay our respects to Frank and offer our love and support to his family and friends. Vale, Frank Beveridge, and thank you for your service to our region and our state.

I would also like to address a significant development in Central and North Queensland. Thanks to the stability provided by the Crisafulli government, Bravus has committed \$50 million to expand its Carmichael coalmine in the Galilee Basin, laying the foundation for half a billion dollars in further investment and 600 new jobs. This initial stage will deliver critical infrastructure, from worker accommodation and a new dam to rail maintenance facilities. It is a clear sign of confidence in Queensland, and it is happening because the Crisafulli government backs the resources sector. On this

side of the chamber we stand with mining families in Townsville, Mackay and Rockhampton. While Labor is divided and directionless, the Crisafulli government is united and focused. We have drawn a line under Labor's decade of decline, ending overnight royalty hikes and restoring certainty for coal communities.

This commitment from Bravus will deliver real work for suppliers, apprentices and contractors across regional Queensland. It is proof that when government provides certainty industry delivers jobs. The Crisafulli government has the unity, vision and resolve to back our resources sector. We are backing the industry that powers our economy. We are backing the workers who keep this state moving. We will keep delivering real results, real jobs and real investment for regional Queensland because on this side of the House we understand what the resources sector means to this great state in terms of the tens of thousands of jobs that are provided right across Queensland and the importance that plays in regional communities where those workers live and work.

Last night I attended the 10th anniversary of APLNG, and what a good news story that was. Who would have thought that when they began 10 years ago they would be in the position they are today? How communities like Roma, Miles and Chinchilla have grown and the difference having that gas production has made to those communities, workers and industries that rely on the gas industry in those communities is a good news story. We on this side of the House are backing the resources sector. We will continue to back the resources sector because we understand it underpins Queensland's economy and provides the jobs we so need.

Redcliffe Hospital, Expansion



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (2.37 pm): Earlier today the Treasurer boasted about the cranes on the skyline around the Toowoomba Hospital, but he cannot boast about what is happening at Redcliffe Hospital because nothing is happening. On Thursday it will be five months since the LNP halted the building of the crucial Redcliffe Hospital expansion. Construction had already started on a nine-storey clinical services building. The piling foundations were starting to go into the ground. The day they announced the new Olympic stadium and aquatic centre was the day the piling contractor pulled out the last of its piling rigs from the Redcliffe Hospital site.

My team and I have been doorknocking in the area and telling people what the LNP is doing to our local hospital. The hospital staff we have met told us what is happening. They say they are overworked and overtime has been slashed. They say the hospital is overcrowded, with staff crammed into every available space and patients ramped up in corridors and places where they should not be. It is clear that we need the Redcliffe Hospital now. Our population is booming and putting pressure on this hospital right now.

We have not only been talking to local residents; my office has done some detailed statistical analysis of the public health data available for Redcliffe Hospital. What we discovered was that there was a higher wait time over the past year, with 90 per cent of patients waiting anywhere from 250 to 350 days to receive planned surgeries, compared to around 150 days a year earlier. October 2023 to June 2024 had a median wait time of 145 days for planned surgeries at Redcliffe Hospital. The median wait time for October 2024 to June 2025 had gone up to 285 days. Let me repeat: the median wait time for planned surgeries at Redcliffe Hospital has blown out from 145 days to 285 days under the LNP. This is how the LNP manages our local hospital.


Redcliffe locals feel that the Redcliffe Hospital has gotten worse with the LNP—that is what they tell me—and they are right. Not only have they cancelled a building project that would deliver the services that are needed now for this overworked and overcrowded hospital, but surgery waiting times are starting to blow out at Redcliffe Hospital under the LNP. Locals have seen through all of the promises the LNP have made about looking after our local hospitals. All they need to do is go down to Recreation Street in Redcliffe and have a look at the abandoned building site next to that hospital and they can decide for themselves if they can trust the LNP and the LNP member for Redcliffe to look after their local hospital.

That is not all. I have questions about the planned car park expansion under the LNP. The multistorey car park opened in 2020 at a cost of \$23.7 million. I know from my briefing at the time that the car park allows for an extra three storeys to be built on top of that—totalling 530 extra spaces. However, now the member for Redcliffe has stated on social media that the LNP have put out to tender a project to build just two extra storeys for 494 spaces. The question is: why aren't they building it to the planned full capacity? What are the reasons? Is this a cut to the planned size of the extended car park? Is this another LNP cut and cancellation for Redcliffe Hospital? Locals want to know why the LNP

is only doing two storeys on top of this car park when the original design catered for an extra three storeys.

Locals are really unhappy about what is happening at Redcliffe Hospital. We do not need to go and find opinions. Wherever I go around the area, people stop me to talk about the Redcliffe Hospital and they ask what is happening and why. All I can say is that the LNP are in control of this and they need to go and talk to them. Our locals are not happy about what is happening at the Redcliffe Hospital—the overcrowding, the overworked staff and the abandoned building site. They know that, with the LNP managing our local hospital and health service, it will always get worse.

Nambour, Community Safety

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (2.42 pm): I rise today to speak on an issue that has become a deep concern for my community of Nambour and across the Nicklin electorate—that is, the growing challenge of community safety, particularly in the context of homelessness. For more than a decade, Labor neglected the housing system and that neglect left us with a full-blown housing crisis—one that is now playing out on the streets of Nambour in a very real and visible way. The community has made their voices heard, and I want to particularly thank local Helen Tagg who presented a petition to council for urgent action, with over 1,500 signatures from locals. They want to be able to walk their dog in the dog park, take their children to the playground at Quota park and enjoy our green spaces.

Nambour has always been a town of compassion, looking after our most vulnerable, but over recent months the number of people sleeping rough in Nambour has doubled or even tripled according to reports from those working in outreach services. This has not just happened by chance. With the neighbouring council's enforcement activities against illegal camping in parks, more people have been pushed into Nambour. As a result, we are seeing more tents along creeks, in parks and in public spaces. This is not safe for families and it is not safe for those experiencing homelessness themselves, particularly given that Nambour has endured three significant floods in the past year.


Last week we welcomed the minister, Sam O'Connor, and we held a meeting with important stakeholders, including Sunshine Coast Council, housing officials, health officials, police and, importantly, people who have lived experience of homelessness. We brought everyone to the table to identify both short- and long-term solutions. This is not an issue that one level of government can solve alone. The state has a responsibility, and we are acting. I can confirm that the HOME teams from housing have doubled their outreach presence in Nambour. They are engaging with rough sleepers, offering assistance and working hard to find safe accommodation alternatives. Minister O'Connor has been in Nambour twice in the past fortnight. Along with the meeting with stakeholders, he has joined me walking the streets and parks, engaging with rough sleepers and seeing firsthand the challenges we face. That is what a government that cares looks like—listening and acting, working alongside the community to find answers.

The Queensland police have also responded locally, with increased operations and patrols. Ultimately, it is the Sunshine Coast Council that needs to make decisions around managing local parks. While it is not my role to dictate their decisions, I have been working closely with them to try to identify solutions so that families in Nambour can once again enjoy Quota park, the dog park and other important recreational areas. At the same time, my commitment to community safety in Nambour is rock solid. That is why I fought for and secured a permanent police beat shopfront in Nambour's CBD which will be delivered by the end of this year. This is something the people of Nambour have asked for for years and something that will make a difference.


I want to acknowledge that our home town of Nambour is facing a difficult situation with no easy solutions. Our town cares deeply about those who are homeless but we also care about the safety and amenity of our public spaces. The community have been patient and they have been compassionate, but they also deserve action. Nambour is a proud, resilient town. Our people deserve to feel safe, and they deserve a government that backs them. After 10 years of decline and neglect under Labor, they finally have a government that is listening, acting and determined to deliver results, particularly when it comes to longer term housing solutions.

Yesterday I was pleased to tour the Common Ground supportive housing project in Brisbane with Sunshine Coast Mayor Rosanna Natoli and Councillor David Law to see what might be possible on the Sunshine Coast to deliver this housing first model to better support those with barriers to tenancy, including addictions and mental health issues. Those longer term plans and discussions continue while we also look to urgently address the immediate need in Nambour. I can assure the people of Nambour

that I will keep fighting every day to make Nambour a safer, stronger and more vibrant community for all.

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Before I call the member for Jordan, it is a privilege for me to be able to welcome to the gallery of the people's house: Tony Gollan, Trainer of the Year; Angela Jones, Jockey of the Year; and Emily Lang, Apprentice of the Year. It is a pleasure for me, too, because of the connection the McDonald family and the Gollan family had in Toowoomba for many years.

Liberal National Party, Integrity

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.47 pm): 'The jobs-for-mates era is over,' the finance minister proudly proclaimed. It is just that she forgot to tell her LNP colleagues and herself. What we have seen since the Crisafulli government's election is a literal conga line of LNP party members and donors being lined up for cushy positions in the Public Service and on government boards. Of course, we know the LNP had a lot to say when they were in opposition about integrity, an independent Public Service and merit-based selection. The Deputy Premier in February 2024 was quick to say—

Professor Coaldrake recommended the independent public service ... he also recommended ... advertising positions to make sure that there is no undue influence and to show Queensland it is an independent public service that is based on meritorious selection processes.

Let's do the proverbial resume check on some of these meritorious appointments the LNP have made in less than 10 months in power. We have Peter Matic, a former LNP Brisbane City councillor who was appointed to be the Deputy State Recovery Coordinator. I do not begrudge him. He has no qualifications, but his former ward had flooded a few times so at least he had some experience. Turns out he also was not on the State Recovery Coordinator register list prior to his appointment, but who cares about those pesky lists.

Speaking of disasters, we have got Andrew Cripps, a former minister in the Newman government who was knocked off by the member for Hinchinbrook a while back, then came back as an LNP Senate candidate and while still a candidate was appointed State Recovery Coordinator for the North Queensland floods. Even he recognised such an evident conflict when he said, 'I can't do both. It's not compatible. This needs my full attention. This is bigger than any short-term political ambition that I have.' Good to know, Crippsy, that being an LNP senator is only a short-term ambition.

Then we get another former LNP councillor and former LNP federal member, Julian Simmonds, whose only real claim to fame before this was taking out poor Jane Prentice in the seat of Ryan. He is all good. He sidles up to the Deputy Premier's chief of staff and says, 'I wouldn't mind that \$312,000 CEO job in Economic Development Queensland.' What we do know, by his own admission, is that conversations were had during functions and events they both attended. It must have been when he was still the executive director of the coal industry funded Australians for Prosperity that published all those ads and had billboards attacking the federal Labor government. This is the same Australians for Prosperity that deleted two months of social media posts after being pulled up by the Australian Electoral Commission over unauthorised content. 'Job well done, Mr Simmonds. Here's another job for you.'

The former deputy premier in the Newman government, Jeff Seeney, is now deputy chair of CS Energy. He has been pretty busy, texting the member for Mudgeeraba about explosions. 'Hey, Ros, hope things are good for you.' They are not good, Jeff. We knew it would not be long before former LNP member for Burleigh Michael Hart would be back. Someone has to fund those Canadian holidays. He is now the chair of the Queensland Work Health and Safety Board.

Then we have new TAFE board chair Vivian Grayson. The Minister for Housing was happy to vouch for him: 'There is rarely a meeting'—we assume a party meeting—that he is not at and I thank him for his guidance.' But why have one LNP crony on the TAFE board when you can have three, with the appointment of Christopher Lehmann, former LNP Ferny Grove candidate, and party donor Andrew Knox? The member for Oodgeroo was also happy to vouch for him when she wrote—

I think he would bring an eye to better financial performance, governance and transparency to a board level role.

...


He came to mind for TAFE Queensland, but his skills are transferrable.

The \$5,000 donation he made to the LNP probably also came to mind. Now, that is a real transferable skill!

Of course, can you not beat the best four appointments of all, which have all gone to one person—LNP aligned Mr John Sosso: director-general of the Deputy Premier's department; the Economic Development Queensland board via his director-general role; the Queensland Redistribution Commission; and the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel. It is like there is no other public servant available to help out.

I come back to the finance minister, who also recently said, 'We are appointing people with the qualifications, experience and passion to deliver for Queensland.' She forgot to add that they must also have big wallets and LNP party memberships.

Maryborough CBD, Antisocial Behaviour

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (2.52 pm): I rise today to address an issue that has consumed my community of Maryborough since I came into office in October 2024—that is, antisocial behaviour. I had not even been sworn into parliament and already I was hosting and addressing a maddened community, sick and tired of this antisocial behaviour happening under our noses within the CBD area. The CBD area is the heart and soul of our town—a town that prides itself on its rich heritage and tourism. However, tourism has dropped because business owners and the community are terrified. Business owners lock their doors while locals shop.

I would like to ask: is this the way a community should find acceptable to live? Apparently for the previous 10 years, yes, it was. The former Labor government and their member did not listen to the community. Close to 700 people attended the town hall meeting in November 2024. There was fury coming from the community—fury and frustration—and their message was very clear: clean up the town. I listened. We doorknocked the businesses and listened to their stories as we wanted to hear firsthand of the issues being faced. Yes, it was confronting, but it was real, it was accurate and it was disgusting what was happening in the CBD of Maryborough.


I ask: is it acceptable to have people bashing innocent shoppers so that they themselves can be returned to prison? Is it satisfactory to allow these antisocial people to defecate in the middle of a busy street in daylight? Is it acceptable to let people conduct drug deals in broad daylight outside the bank? Is it acceptable for people to sleep and urinate outside shopfronts and for shop owners to have to clean up these people's messes before entering their own businesses? Is it reasonable for the community to all know and openly talk about a 'drug boat' in our Mary River that produces and supplies drugs in town? Nothing is being done to stop this from happening. If we remove this said drug boat from the river, this will eliminate a lot of the drug fuelled antisocial behaviour issues that we are facing as a community. These are just a few examples of what has been happening with antisocial behaviour in the CBD of Maryborough. On my watch, none of these behaviours are acceptable.

I am pleased to say that our Premier, the Hon. David Crisafulli, listened and, more importantly, he acted. Our Premier visited Maryborough, spoke to business owners and acted. At least three roundtable meetings are going to be held to discuss this issue. Members from our community, relevant departments and stakeholders are going to be there. A taskforce has been set up and finally a sigh of relief can be felt from business owners and the community within my CBD. Police can now be seen on the streets, saturating the CBD area, shopping centres and parks, making the community feel safe again.

Maryborough is a proud community, and this is why I will not stop until all of my community are safe and feeling pride in their town again, too. With the Crisafulli LNP government they will feel safe, they will feel trusted and they will feel listened to. They know that we are going to do the right thing rather than what has happened in the past for the last 10 years—thanks to the Crisafulli LNP government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Those to my left, there was too much chatter. I can hear you very clearly. The member for Maryborough might not have been able to hear you, but I can hear you.

Youth Crime

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.57 pm): The north continues to suffer under the crime crisis that we continue to have under this government. It has been 10 months since the change of government. Most Queenslanders, in particular the North Queenslanders that I represent, were hoping on a wish and a prayer that a change of government would see the changes necessary to bring this under control. So far we have seen incremental changes being made, but we are still seeing up to five vehicles a night being stolen in Townsville and seven in Cairns. It is not uncommon to hear this. We

are also seeing magistrates right now going lenient, even with the new Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation, knowing that the youth offenders are now carrying their so-called criminal history into their adult lives. We now have magistrates going soft and letting these kids out on probation. Unfortunately, some of these magistrates were appointed under the previous Labor government with, obviously, an ideology of leaving kids out on the streets and not protecting victims.

There is only one sure-fire way to solve this problem—that is, to attach minimum mandatory sentencing to some of the most prevalent crimes such as unlawful use of a motor vehicle. We have seen the Labor Party fail in this area and we have seen the LNP pick up what has been called the KAP's relocation sentencing policy with Circuit Breaker Sentencing. We have been told it is on its way, but may we add that minimum mandatory sentencing must be tied to bush sentencing if we are going to solve this problem.

Residents in Bushland Beach last week were completely terrorised, with multiple stolen vehicles running up on people's driveways, through people's yards and nearly running over residents. We saw police vehicles once again last week rammed and pushed to the side by these youth criminals. As I was about to write my speech this afternoon, I was contacted by a business owner in Townsville who manages one of the businesses along The Strand in Townsville. It should be the most picturesque part of Townsville—the Rockpool, Odyssey, the surf lifesaving club and even Juliette's the ice-cream store have been hit by youth offenders last night who smashed the place to bits. Those small businesses are now dealing with the cost. We have to put an end to this.

The KAP have put forward a number of proposals. Pepper spray is something that Queenslanders are asking for right now. We respect that the Northern Territory is about to go into a 12-month trial on pepper spray to give would-be victims the opportunity to protect themselves while being attacked. We have women out there who feel vulnerable, people living with a disability and even the elderly contacting our office to say 'we would love an opportunity to use pepper spray during one of those attacks'. We have heard ex-police officers on *Sunrise* this week saying the message from police has been clear: if somebody is committing a property crime and they are trying to take something off you, just give them whatever they want and let the perpetrator get away. How does that work for a rape victim? Just lay there and let them take what they want? Those victims want to be able to defend themselves and pepper spray is an opportunity to give those people the right to defend themselves.

Castle law is something that no-one in this House likely wants to talk about publicly but I can tell you, the public are calling for castle law. The KAP has raised a second parliamentary petition after the Labor government failed to allow us to debate our previous legislation before the vote went through at the last state election. There have been 73,000 signatures in the last couple of months. We are running this petition right through until the end of October. The idea of castle law and the ability to protect yourself with whatever means necessary during a home invasion when protecting your family, your property or your loved ones is gaining traction in other states, too. New South Wales and Victoria are on board. We have also heard the Chief Minister in the Northern Territory say on ABC Radio that she was not averse to the idea and she is listening to Territorians.

I hope that the Crisafulli government is listening to those 73,000 signatories right now. Although they may not like to go as far as the KAP wants to, I would implore the state government to strengthen the self-defence legislation in this state so we can make sure that victims have the right to defend themselves and know that the law will be on their side. Galvanising the rights of victims over perpetrators should be paramount in this state.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, Report

Resumed from p. 2384.



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (3.02 pm): It is a pleasure to contribute to the debate on these committee reports and boy, wasn't the estimates process a rough ride for the Crisafulli government and


its cabinet. Things went from bad to worse at a rate of absolute knots. This was never more prevalent than in the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee. Let us start with the Premier and the estimates process itself. When he was the opposition leader, the Premier was proudly out there giving a commitment to Queenslanders on how he would reform the estimates process. Then, he gets the trust of Queenslanders—fast forward to the very first estimates process under the Crisafulli government and what happened to the promises he made as opposition leader about reforming the process? He absolutely ditched them.

Mr de Brenni interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: I take the interjection from the Manager of the Opposition Business. The member for Broadwater promised when he was in opposition to increase the available time to examine expenditure and to commit to an opposition or crossbench member chairing the committees to help ensure a fairer go. You cannot really move much further away because not only were the government chairs not able to chair their own committees, they were sidelined by their own government. It was extraordinary. Limiting the opportunity for Dorothy Dixers was another commitment that was given by the Premier and, of course, that was absolutely ignored. There were more dixers than ever. There were dixers going from government MPs to witnesses, CEOs and director-generals—bypassing the ministers. Not even the ministers were getting the dixer questions. It was extraordinary stuff—extraordinary. We saw ministers who were running down the clock waffling and clearly not across their portfolio.

Let us turn to the portfolio of energy and the part of the committee that examines energy and the Minister for Energy. We have seen the Callide cover-up continue and deepen under the Crisafulli government. We saw a bombshell of RTI documents that revealed clear communication between sitting shareholder ministers from the board of CS Energy. We saw ministers not acknowledge the existence of those text messages. It was absolutely extraordinary to have the energy minister basically denying knowledge of the RTIs that were tabled during the estimates process and refusing to answer and acknowledge questions that went to the very heart of accountability and transparency that this government promised Queenslanders. They were simply trying to avoid any real accountability by saying: look, it is not really my job, I will just leave that to the RTI officer. Then, there were more documents tabled when a question was asked to the Premier's office about briefings that the Premier might have received about the Callide explosion. Despite the energy minister saying that between the explosion and the date of the documents that were requested under the RTI—which was two weeks—that he had briefed the Premier repeatedly, no documents were magically released by the Premier's office.

What was very clear during this estimates process is there are ministers who are very much out of their depth and the government is focused on itself and not focused on delivering for Queensland. We have seen rebates cut and people are paying over \$1,000 more and frankly, it is no wonder the latest polling has seen their primary vote tank 10 points.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (3.07 pm): I rise in relation to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee's *2025-26 Budget estimates—Appropriation Bill 2025* report. At the outset, I wish to thank the government members of the committee for their considered report, the Speaker for chairing the process, as well as the committee secretariat for their assistance throughout the estimates process. I would also like to once again acknowledge the hardworking public servants within each of my portfolios and thank them for their significant efforts to prepare for and participate in the estimates process.

The estimates process reaffirmed that the Crisafulli LNP government is well and truly delivering for Queensland. I was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss our government's work within the portfolios of finance, trade and employment and training. It is clear that after 10 years of decline at the hands of the former Labor government, we have gone straight to work delivering for Queensland over the last 10 months. After a decade of decline, the Labor opposition were left scraping the bottom of the barrel for criticisms in their statement of reservation. Across our energy, ports, water and finance government owned corporations, I have been working with my fellow shareholding ministers to enhance the performance of these corporations to deliver the best services and value for Queenslanders.

In my role as finance minister I am proud to work alongside the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer through the Cabinet Budget Review Committee to ensure that spending proposals are efficient and effective at delivering outcomes for our state. I am also pleased to be part of the economic security team with both the Treasurer and the Minister for Women.

Within their statement of reservation, those opposite also returned to their typical scare campaigns in relation to CS Energy, seeking to deflect from their many failures whilst in government. Who could forget that those opposite performed so poorly whilst in government that Labor's own Mining and Energy Union publicly confirmed that Queensland's state owned power stations were 'being dangerously run into the ground under Labor's watch'. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli LNP government is focused on transparency and delivering a fresh start for Queenslanders.

Within the trade space, the Labor opposition does not appear to be enjoying this government's highlighting their many failures within this portfolio. They complain under the guise of so-called concern for apparent inflammatory language and political posturing by myself. I say to the member for McConnell that if it is political posturing to call out the many failures of the former Labor government within this portfolio, the member may wish to brace herself for much, much more. We will not apologise for highlighting missed opportunities or damaged trade relationships under the stewardship of the previous government, no matter how uncomfortable it may make the member for McConnell or her colleagues.

Within just 10 months we have already positioned Queensland as a stable investment destination in the face of uncertain global conditions. We have backed trade and investment with an additional \$5 million this financial year, part of an additional \$18 million over the next four years, to help Queensland businesses expand into new international markets, and we are supporting Queensland exporters, particularly small businesses, to break into new markets and increase local job opportunities. We are making it clear to our international partners that under the Crisafulli LNP government Queensland is open for business.

Finally, within my portfolio of employment and training, those opposite continued an altogether underwhelming estimates performance by attempting to cast aspersions on qualified board members. Those opposite highlighted their altogether poor preparation for estimates, particularly in relation to questions surrounding funding arrangements for the Back to Work program. Only Labor would complain about fee-free TAFE arrangements after a decade of mismanaging Queensland's training system and leaving Queenslanders behind.

Perhaps the most concerning aspects of the Labor opposition's statement of reservation was its attempt to rewrite history. It is simply incorrect for those opposite to claim that there was no funding in the 2025-26 budget for the Back to Work program or that the program was not continuing. As those opposite, including the member for Cairns, well know, this program was always continuing through the department. He received communication about this very matter on 2 July 2025, though I note he did not table this document during the estimates process. I table this document now for the benefit of the member and the House.


Tabled paper: Email, dated 2 July 2025, from the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, to the Member for Cairns, Mr Healy MP, enclosing a letter from the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates.

The director-general of DTET gave a very fulsome explanation in relation to the Back to Work program—

Mr Healy: He didn't answer the question.

Ms BATES:—the member for Cairns should have been listening—and those opposite completely ignored the responses in preparing their statement of reservation.

I could easily continue to detail the many failures of the former Labor government, but, noting time constraints, I will conclude my contribution by noting that the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for Queensland. I am pleased to have the opportunity to share our work to deliver a fresh start for Queensland within my portfolios.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.12 pm): The estimates process laid bare what Queenslanders have already begun to understand: the Crisafulli government is not what it would like them to believe. Estimates exposed the charade. Estimates tore down the facade. Estimates shone a light on the true nature and character of the Premier and his LNP government. Prior to the election the then opposition leader promised his would be a government of accountability, a government of transparency, a government of honesty, a government that respected taxpayer dollars. How far the Premier has fallen from the high moral ground he claimed for himself!

Estimates revealed that the Crisafulli government governs for itself, not Queenslanders. Estimates revealed that this is a government that looks after the jobs of its LNP mates, not the jobs of everyday Queenslanders. Estimates revealed that the Premier has not seen a promise he is unwilling to break. Estimates revealed that this is a government that operates in the realms of secrecy, deceit,

obfuscation and deflection. Scrutiny is the Crisafulli government's enemy—its kryptonite—and this is a government that will go to extraordinary lengths to avoid proper scrutiny.

At the start of his estimates hearing, the Premier was asked if he accepts responsibility for the decisions of the budget and the outcomes of the budget—a simple question, a yes-or-no question. Instead, the Premier waffled for six minutes. Regardless, it is clear that the outcomes of the budget do indeed lay at the feet of the Premier and his team. The decisions made by the government in the budget are the LNP's, and the Queensland Labor opposition will continue to hold the government to account on behalf of all Queenslanders each and every day.

First, there was the Premier's promise to reform the estimates process. Indeed, he did reform the estimates process; he changed it so that non-government members of parliament had less time to question the government, removing the prescribed 70-30 split in the motion. That is a broken promise. It was revealed during the hearings that Director-General Walker sacked two senior public servants—two longstanding and respected SES public servants. They were not allowed to say goodbye to their staff; they were escorted to their vehicles and sent on their way. These are hardly the hallmarks of respecting the Public Service.

Before the election the Premier indicated that directors-general would be independent, without political links, but the estimates process revealed that is anything but the case. We uncovered that the director-general of the Department of Justice had worked for Liberal members of parliament and also donated money to the LNP. That is, of course, on top of Director-General John Sosso—a clear-as-day broken promise.


Prior to the last election the Premier promised he would resign if the number of victims of crime did not decrease. The very morning of estimates, though, the Premier released a new metric of victim numbers that he indicated he would now be held to. While he previously said that he liked the ABS victim of crime data because it is consistent, the Premier deviated from this. We have all heard of 'lies, damn lies and statistics'. Now we have lies, damn lies and Premier Crisafulli's personally curated statistics.

Ms BATES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is using unparliamentary language and he knows it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Thank you, Minister. I was going to bring that to his attention at the end, but could you now withdraw, opposition leader?

Mr MILES: I am happy to withdraw. During the estimates process the Premier was evasive about his vaccination status—a shameful mixed message to Queenslanders from the Premier. The Premier failed to outline whether he had received his flu vaccination and whether he believed Queenslanders should get vaccinated, all while we discovered that they were spending three times as much on advertising their own Hospital Rescue Plan than on the free flu vaccine. We hold serious concerns about the wrong priorities of this Crisafulli LNP government. The Crisafulli government is clearly out of step with real Queenslanders—Queenslanders who are currently sniffing through the winter flu season with very little reassurance from their government on how this ongoing situation will be properly managed.

In the time allotted I have barely scratched the surface of the Crisafulli government's broken promises, integrity failures and self-interest. The 2025 budget estimates process should have been an opportunity for the Crisafulli LNP government to deliver on its promises—promises to reform, to do better and for a fresh start, but it was not a fresh start at all.

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.17 pm): I rise to speak today on the 2025-26 budget estimates process and what it means for Queenslanders, especially for my community of Caloundra. This was my first experience of the budget and the estimates process and I would like to start by thanking the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Trading as well as the exceptional teams that work so hard to prepare for the whole process and deliver quality information for the scrutiny of the budget.

This budget sets out a clear path for growth, relief and opportunity, but it also shows us the sharp contrast in Queensland politics: a Crisafulli government delivering real results and a Labor opposition stuck in negativity. Let me start with Labor's statement of reservation. They accused the Premier of waffling for six minutes just to run down the clock when he was asked a question. Is this really the best they can do—cheap shots about speaking time while families in Caloundra are crying out for action on housing, training and congestion? Queenslanders know that our Premier is articulate and succinct and

provides fulsome answers so that all Queenslanders are clear on our plan and how the plan will be achieved. Those opposite went on to say—


It is clear that the outcomes of the Crisafulli LNP Budget ... lay at the feet of LNP Premier David Crisafulli and his team.

We proudly accept that accountability, because the outcomes of this budget are apprentices who will be trained in Caloundra, first home buyers getting real support and traffic finally being addressed through the Caloundra congestion-busting plan. If Labor wants to pin those outcomes on us, we will wear that badge with pride. What we know is that a decade of neglect is because of those opposite and a fresh start is the beginning of change for Queenslanders that will benefit us all.

Those opposite also claimed that they hold concerns regarding the direction of TAFE Queensland and the higher education and training sector under the Crisafulli LNP government. I want to assure the opposition that it does not need to be concerned about the direction of TAFE. During estimates we heard of the brilliant TAFE centre of excellence being delivered in Caloundra. Those opposite did not even consider the growing population that we all live with without the infrastructure investment to match. This TAFE also has a focus on construction trades. How exciting for our young people to have the opportunity to become skilled tradies—a sector we all know is filled with opportunity to achieve great things. Those opposite cannot pretend to care about training now when we are the ones delivering a \$78 million Caloundra TAFE centre of excellence. The Caloundra community is absolutely thrilled.

Then those opposite tried to smear our trade minister. Queensland trade deserves a minister who prioritises evidence over ideology. Sadly in the view of the Queensland Labor opposition, Minister Bates failed this test. This is from the party that damaged investor confidence with its own stop-start policies, botched energy projects and unstable leadership. They talk about stability but their record is slogans and no substance. Some of us had the unfortunate burden to be running a local business under the former government and, believe me, it was a muddle of poor communication and unnecessary barriers.

During the estimates hearing I was absolutely ecstatic to once again hear the Premier confirm and reaffirm the LNP's commitment to busting traffic congestion in Caloundra. This is the No. 1 issue for our community and the people of Caloundra are so happy to hear that works have started and the commitment is there. We are finally seeing some real investment after a decade of neglect from the Labor government with poor planning, a lack of investment and what I have always suspected—it did not even know Caloundra existed. On behalf of the people of Caloundra, we thank the Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Transport and Main Roads for listening to our electorate and taking action that is 10 years overdue. Investment into key road projects as well as public transport with the Wave will completely transform how we get around and is the most significant step forward that Caloundra has ever seen. These projects are gutsy and I have no doubt hard decisions have been made, so thank you all. While those opposite complain, we get on with delivering our \$78 million TAFE, first home buyer support and the Caloundra congestion-busting plan.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (3.23 pm): This year's estimates hearings showed Queenslanders exactly what kind of government they are dealing with—a government that, on my committee, heard from two ministers responsible for the state's finances who spent more time dodging questions than delivering any answers, and let us start with the Treasurer. We spent considerable time questioning him on the addition of \$23 billion in operating expenses in MYFER when no-one has been able to explain what it was for, and then after questioning the Under Treasurer revealed that the \$23 billion was simply a rushed estimate. Rushed? MYFER was a month late and they still monumentally stuffed it and, in the process, stuffed the economy. Members might remember that in January this year I had to tell the Treasurer to get off the beach and deliver a budget update—I table that article—but they still could not get it right.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 6 January 2025, titled 'Shannon Fentiman demands LNP release MYFER'.

As a result of this whopping \$23 billion in additional operating expenses, ratings agencies revised from stable to negative the long-term issuer credit outlook in Queensland. Economists and the ratings agencies themselves have said that the \$23 billion in operating expenses in MYFER would seem to be a big part of the reason for the outlook downgrade, but in a remarkable turnaround come budget time that \$23 billion—that rushed estimate—was revised and improved by \$16.6 billion. They got it wrong by \$16.6 billion and in the meantime the ratings agencies downgraded the outlook and that is costing the Queensland economy every day. It was put to the Under Treasurer that this is exactly why one of the Deputy Under Treasurers refused to sign off on MYFER and, as reported in the *Courier-Mail*—and I table this article—the Under Treasurer was 'lost for words'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 29 July 2025, titled 'Labor claims government official refused to sign off on MYFER'.

But it gets worse. Queenslanders are in a cost-of-living crisis, yet the Treasurer could not answer the basics. He could not tell the committee how much rego is going up for the average motorist or whether any modelling was done or why everything is going up by 3.4 per cent. The *Courier-Mail* reported the Treasurer as 'flailing' over this line of questioning, and again I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 29 July 2025, titled 'Treasurer, why are Queenslanders paying more in fees?'.

Now let us turn to the Minister for Finance. First it was revealed by questions from the opposition that she knew of the Callide explosion within hours, and she still hid it from Queenslanders. Text messages show her office was alerted within hours of the blast, yet she dodged question after question. 'Secret texts reveal Ros Bates told of Callide blast within hours'. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 30 July 2025, titled 'Secret texts reveal Ros Bates told of Callide blast within hours'.

Queenslanders deserve honesty, not a minister who responds to an energy crisis with a thumbs up emoji. Then there is the issue of the conflict of interest with her assistant minister in discussions about the Destination Brisbane Consortium. Questions were asked about conflicts and management plans—things you might think the minister might know about—but, as the *Brisbane Times* reported, 'Bates repeatedly declined to directly answer whether she knew of the "huge conflict of interest"'—I table that article—but maybe that is because the minister does not actually know her portfolio or what it entails.


Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 30 July 2025, titled 'Qld minister under "conflict management plan" over husband's Queen's Wharf role'.

She had a dixer from the committee which asked if she could please outline her key role as finance minister, so she gets a softball dixer asking her to explain her role and then she goes on to read out—monotone voice reading from a script—'As finance minister my responsibilities include', and I table an article again from the *Courier-Mail* which outlines that the Minister for Finance was unable to say a word in the estimates hearing unless she read it from a piece of paper.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, undated, titled 'Scripted Visit'.

One would think that she would be able to explain to a committee what her job is, but apparently that was a step too far for the Minister for Finance.

Lastly, I want to mention the performance by the member for Moggill, who spent two weeks playing wing defence for the government—stuck out on the wing but desperate to get into the circle. He had the audacity to go on social media spruiking an open and transparent estimates process. I genuinely thought it was satire, but the only joke here is the government's idea of accountability. Oh, and by the way, member for Toowoomba South, just for your information, rego is increasing on average \$88 for the average motorist—something he should know.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (3.28 pm): For a newly elected government that continuously talks about a new start and a new way of doing things, its performance throughout estimates showed nothing of the sort. In terms of its broken promise around supposed estimates reform—and we heard the Premier talk about it earlier—it may have increased the time by a few hours but, when we take into account the number of points of order taken by the government—by that protection squad with the cheerleader being the Leader of the House—the number of extra hours were completely whittled away. One would not have minded if the points of order were taken after the question was asked, but there were two or three of them taking points of order in most cases before the question was even finished!

During estimates they were operating as a protection squad. I have never seen anything like it. Even though I welcomed the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker as chairs of the committee, it was interesting that the new role for the committee chairs was one of taking points of order. That was their instructions. The number of points of order taken and the time wasted simply to protect their incompetent ministers from answering direct questions was incredible. The last time we had estimates when this side of the House was in government it was a 70-30 split. Even though we got additional hours and they say there were additional questions given, it has gone down to 60-40. That is the legacy and reform that those opposite are boasting about.

Unfortunately, there was a trend of mistruths and no apparent performance put in by anybody who was trying to answer questions to do it in an efficient manner. There was so much waffle. There was so much that was irrelevant raised in the questions that it was often breathtaking. In my community, the people I am speaking to at the functions I am going to are sick of hearing the blame game from those opposite. They spent more time in estimates talking about the previous Labor government than

they did talking about themselves. One knows that a government is in trouble when they come up with slogan after slogan. It is now 'a decade of decline', with nothing to back it up. The *Brisbane Times* poll is not far off. It is early days, but already we are seeing the green shoots of the public turning against those opposite.

The 2025 estimates hearing for trade laid bare the minister's reliance on inflammatory, politicised and baseless slogans highlighting the government's blatant refusal to take accountability while simultaneously degrading the hard-fought relationships the previous Labor government fostered between our valued trading partners. This is not the time to make comments that can harm investor confidence or destabilise our relationships with our trading partners. TIQ CEO Justin McGowan summed it up well in estimates when he said—


We have briefed the minister on how important is investor confidence and providing stable, secure settings. There is a lot of turbulence in the world.

...

What has happened since Liberation Day has provided uncertainty to investors. The surer the settings we can have here, the more sure investors will be that we are a safe, secure, reliable place to invest.

Within that context, it is so very irresponsible for the Minister for Trade to keep making baseless claims like 'a decade of neglect', that trade documents were 'gathering dust', that Queensland had 'flailed on the international stage' and that 'investor confidence was almost demolished under the former government'. When the director-general and the TIQ CEO were questioned about their briefing or advice, they answered that they have never said Queensland was not open for business and they never advised what the minister uses as cheap, political, baseless slogans.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Mudgeeraba, you were constantly interjecting and the interjections were not being taken. I make a note of that.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (3.34 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise today to address the first estimates hearings under the new Crisafulli government. This was our government's opportunity to show the people of Queensland that the change they voted for in October 2024 is real, it is happening and it will continue. We all know that the previous Labor government had become stale. They stopped listening to the people of our great state. On 26 October last year Queenslanders said, 'Enough!' They voted for a better government—an honest government.

The residents of the Maryborough electorate want to know what this means for them. It is my great pleasure to share some of this good news for Maryborough. The \$7 million commitment to upgrade the local police facility alongside the permanency of Jack's Law and the implementation of Adult Crime, Adult Time are strong signals that the Crisafulli government is serious about getting tough on crime. Our local police officers, who do an incredibly difficult job, now know that they are not forgotten; they are recognised and valued. They have been given the resources they need to continue protecting our community.

My community of Maryborough has voiced its concerns about the ongoing issue of antisocial behaviour within our CBD. Our Premier has come to town and he has listened and acted. A forum was called in town—

Ms Grace: It is exactly the same speech!

Mr Healy: You didn't pick up the wrong speech?

Mr BAROUNIS: I do not think it is the same speech.

Mr Healy: You are not reading the same speech?

Mr BAROUNIS: No, not at all.

Ms Grace: It is the same one. You've picked the wrong one up.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The opposition members are making it exceedingly difficult for the member on his feet and I ask that you rule accordingly.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Members, there has been a lot of cross-chamber chatter. That will now cease. Unfortunately, member, you are going to have to resume your seat. The time for this debate has expired.

Report adopted.

State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): The question is—

That the report of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee be adopted.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.37 pm): It is a privilege to rise and speak to the estimates process of our committee. At the outset, I would like to commend the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer on the responsible, calm and methodical budget that we put down and the ability for us to conduct estimates in a very sensible way. I would also like to place on record my respect for the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for their many hours in the estimates process. The calmness that was instilled through that change did require a large effort from them. I also recognise the Leader of the House for his contribution throughout the process and the consistency that I saw continue across all hearings. I would like to place on record my thanks to my colleagues the members for Cook and Mulgrave for their assistance in the estimates process.

Whilst those observations of the estimates process are on a very high level, this government has also put in place the ability for our members to ask questions about our regions, because our people and our communities matter. Instead of asking political questions, we were given the opportunity to ask questions about our regions. I thank the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the Minister for Housing and Public Works. It was a wonderful opportunity that they gave each of us under each of those portfolios and I thank them greatly.


Shadow minister after shadow minister came in and asked questions of the ministers. All I learned from that was more evidence of the 10 years of decline under Labor and a reinforcement of the 10 months of delivery under this government. I am proud to be the chair of this committee that looks after the portfolios of the Deputy Premier—in particular, state development, infrastructure and that important area of planning for local government across the state, as well as industrial relations.

I have been talking to as many of the 77 local governments across the state as I have been able to, and I know that they are very appreciative of the delivery in the budget of the Residential Activation Fund as well as other areas of improvement that we have put in place. They are looking forward to working with this government as we are genuine about our consultation with local government and about having a great partnership with them.

I also place on record our appreciation to the minister for transport for his responses to our questions about local issues. In my area of the Lockyer Valley, that was particularly about the Warrego Highway where flooding occurs at Glenore Grove and the Forest Hill crossroads, which our community know so well and that was referred to just this Monday at the Bush Summit in Toowoomba. The Warrego Highway is a vital part of the national freight route. I am fighting for an 80/20 spend on that highway, with the federal government putting in 80 per cent. I thank the minister for his answers and for working with the local government to fix our flooding issues.

I note the attempted scare campaign by a shadow minister who asked the director-general of the department of housing about a pensioner who was not going to be able to get a house. The DG simply said that, no, that was not right. That was further evidence of the scare campaigns that were at play throughout the election campaign. The first budget of the Crisafulli government has set a new stage for the next three years and it shows that there have not been cuts such as those opposite were forecasting before the election. There will be nothing sold. We are getting on with a being a calm and methodical conservative government for Queensland.

One of the highlights was how we identified the difference between us and the former government in that we were able to deliver on what we promised Queenslanders, particularly in regards to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We did deliver the 2032 Delivery Plan within 100 days. The work that GIIICA has done and continues to do has inspired Queenslanders who are on board with this government and are looking forward to a wonderful Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032. We look forward to continuing this fresh start for Queensland because we are delivering for Queensland as opposed to the 10 years of decline under Labor.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (3.41 pm): I rise to give my contribution in relation to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee. I have spoken previously about the manner in which the estimates were carried out and the waffling that went on with ministers more intent on talking about the previous Labor government than about themselves. They were absolutely infatuated. During the estimates they made grandiose statements that were completely baseless. They were never informed by any director-general or advised by any public servant. They just came out with outlandish statements that somehow were all supposed to be correct.

I can tell those opposite about what a lot of members in my community are saying. I was out all weekend, talking to people. Already they are starting to talk about the ministers. They say that it is cringe worthy when they hear them speak in public and that little rumours are going around about how one is undermining the other. It is out there already. The public are not buying the blame game. I remember when those opposite were on this side of the House and every time an issue to do with the federal government was raised we were accused of blaming the federal government. What they are doing in government is 100 times worse. No matter what happens, somehow it is not their fault; it is somebody else's fault. The public are growing tired of that. There might be green shoots and the *Brisbane Times* article might be early, but let me tell members that that is what I am hearing.

The portfolio of industrial relations should be focused on ensuring fair and safe workplaces and upholding workers' rights. However, the minister appeared more focused on political attacks than accountability. The minister's handling of the sexist Facebook posts by his handpicked WorkCover board deputy chair showed a distinct lack of leadership. It has been nearly four weeks and I have not heard of any action being taken by the Deputy Premier in relation to the Facebook posts. I can tell members that they were not funny. This risks undermining Queenslanders' confidence in WorkCover Queensland's ability to handle sensitive claims, particularly for women facing psychological injury following workplace sexual harassment. I sought to find out whether the minister thought the posts—one depicting a woman in a tight T-shirt that reads 'slutty nurse costume' and another showing a husband naming his wife 'nag, nag, nag'—were in line with behaviour expected of public sector board members.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for McConnel, can you withdraw that unparliamentary language? It was in the quote.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw. The parliamentary committee found those posts so offensive that they redacted the word on the T-shirt referencing a nurse. That is how offensive the parliamentary committee found those posts. Of the posts, the minister's own director-general said—

... the posts, from looking at them, are inappropriate and sexist and offensive, possibly misogynist.

However, to date no action has been taken by the minister. He bragged about replacing two people who were terminated without any reason whatsoever: the former chair, Dr Anthony Lynham, and the former deputy chair, QCU secretary Jacqueline King. He appoints, he terminates and he selects yet when it comes to taking action on those posts nothing has been done. He said he needed to verify. The very next day another post was made by the deputy chair of WorkCover, which I will table. He stated—


Thanks to my FB "friend" who sent screen shots of my posts on this closed page to Grace Grace—got a run in Parliament tonight. Very classy act 4

No more proof is needed that they were posted by the deputy chair of WorkCover, Greg Hallam. I table that for the information of the minister.

Tabled paper: Extract from social media, undated, featuring posts by the Deputy Chair of the WorkCover Queensland Board, Mr Greg Hallam.

Can members imagine what would have happened if the CFMEU or any other person on that board had made those Facebook posts? They would have been gone in one second. The Deputy Premier would have acted immediately. He would have sacked them. He would have vilified them. They would no longer be there. However, nothing has happened to his handpicked deputy chair. He may think this is going away but he should think twice. It is not going away. From the women who sit behind him—the members for Whitsunday, Maroochydore and Currumbin—I have heard nothing either.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Members, there were some unwarranted interjections and interjections were not being taken. I call members' attention to standing order 247. All comments are to go through the chair.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (3.47 pm): The shadow minister talked about WorkCover and asked what I did when she raised the issue. On that very day I said, 'You have made the allegations and you have shown me the posts,' which I said were inappropriate. She says nothing has been done. I table a copy of a letter that I sent to the chair of WorkCover the very same day that the allegation was raised by the shadow minister.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 31 July 2025, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie; to the Chair of WorkCover Queensland, regarding social media posts made by the Deputy Chair of the WorkCover Queensland Board.

I say to the shadow minister: for 10 years when in opposition I raised allegations of misogyny, abuse and corruption by the CFMEU. What did the then minister do about it? Nothing! For 10 years, she did nothing. She raised an issue with me and I dealt with it on the same day.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order, members! Deputy Premier, take a seat. Members, I just brought to your attention standing order 247, which states that all comments will go through the chair. I bring to members' attention standing order 246, which states that members shall not quarrel across the chamber. I ask all members to cease your interjections or concentrate on what you are saying.

Mr BLEIJIE: The issue was raised and I dealt with it on the same day that it was raised. For 10 years the shadow minister for industrial relations sat back and listened to allegations of corruption, misogyny and abuse by CFMEU officials and not only did she take no action; she appointed them to boards. She put people on the Work Health and Safety Board, which is meant to protect workers in Queensland. What did former minister Grace Grace do when all those allegations were raised? She promoted them to the Work Health and Safety Board!

I take the member's interjection that I sacked CFMEU officials from the board pretty quickly. I did. Within a matter of months or weeks of coming into government, we got rid of the CFMEU grubs from the board. They posed for photos with Dave Hanna, a convicted rapist and former CFMEU member. They defended Michael Ravbar, who has had all of those allegations raised about him. They sat with him, they met with him and they defended him.

I say to the honourable member for McConnel: do not come in here and lecture people about what they may or may not have done. I acted within one day of allegations being raised—something she could never have done. I do not owe my political existence to the CFMEU; she does.

Let's talk about a few other issues that were raised. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition waltzed in and was asking me about the Bega workers and what support we had given to the Bega workers. Interestingly, his union, the AWU, then followed up with a letter to me. They wrote to me to ask what support we are giving to the Bega workers. I will table another letter. I wrote back pretty much straightaway to the secretary of the Australian Workers' Union dealing with the issue. I said—

I was alarmed to find out the former treasurer and AWU member Cameron Dick failed to disclose whether he knew in 2024 about the closure.

As Treasurer, what did he do about it? It appears nothing. That is very disappointing. I table a copy of that letter.

I wrote a little personal note to the AWU secretary that said—

PS I will continue to pursue Cameron Dick for not doing anything about the workers when he was deputy premier and treasurer.

Thank you for bringing this my attention.

Cheers, JB.

I table a copy of that note.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 21 August 2025, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to the Secretary of the Australian Workers' Union, regarding the closure of the Peanut Company of Australia facilities in Kingaroy and Tolga (including a personal note).

I act on behalf of the workers, as the member for Nanango has done in her electorate. Another issue they raised was the battery industry strategy. They were asking why we are not pursuing the battery industry strategy. There was \$4.5 million wasted on this industry strategy. We have a \$180 million Sovereign Industry Development Fund. Here is another document I want to table. This was their battery industry strategy. Guess what it says down the bottom in fine print: 'subject to investment decisions'. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Excerpt from the Queensland Battery Industry Strategy 2024-2029.


They had never put a dollar into the battery industry development fund, and it was subject to investment decisions. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition came into estimates and wanted everyone to believe this was a fully funded strategy. It was not. It was a crock. It was not proceeding. It will be a Sovereign Industry Development Fund instead.

We have listened to the residents of the southern Gold Coast and we will take action on Gold Coast Light Rail stage 4. We are listening to the community—something they never did. We are fixing the Olympic and Paralympic Games debacle that was overseen by the former industrial relations

minister when she was the minister responsible for Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure and QSAC along with the Leader of the Opposition, who was the premier at the time.

We have done a deal with the federal government. The minister was in here saying that people are whingeing. We are not. We are working with the federal government on behalf of Queenslanders because we are Team Queensland. We have a \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund. I say to the honourable member Grace Grace that we will take action on the CFMEU. That is why we have set up a royal commission into the CFMEU. We will finally understand through this royal commission who the enablers were in the Labor Party who allowed the CFMEU to get away with what they did for too long in this state.

(Time expired)

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.52 pm): After hearing for the past four years how when in government those opposite would reform the estimates process and make it more transparent and less politicised, I was disappointed that they did not take the opportunity to do any of that. They could have done away with dixer, put time limits on responses or given more time to those of us in the opposition, but there was nothing. Queenslanders must think this is a bit of a joke. In fact, with so much volleying between members of the government trying to get points of order up and gag us, it felt like a political game or a sport. In the spirit of the game today, I thought I might give out some excellence awards. Sadly, not everyone can get a prize.

I will start off with the participation award. Let's be honest: every parent knows that this is the award you get for showing up and having a crack. The participation award for estimates goes to the Leader of the House, the member for Moggill, who showed up to every single estimates hearing. Some are saying it is because the leadership team did not trust their own people, their own committee members, but I will not let that rain on the member for Moggill's parade. He turned up and ran interference for the government, calling points of order even when there were none. He had a decent crack. Well done to the member for Moggill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Cooper, are you going to table these?

Ms BUSH: I will table these at the end, if that helps. I have a few here. Next we have the most improved player. This goes to the Minister for Sport, the member for Everton, who, after making some egregious comments in this House about women in leadership, managed to name—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cooper, I warn you against using those as a prop.

Ms BUSH: Sorry. I will hold it up and then put it down. After making some egregious comments about women in leadership in parliament, he has managed to name a whole six women with whom he met in developing the Queensland Sport Strategy. The next thing we know he will be appointing a woman to a board. It is really terrific to hear that coming from the member for Everton.

Then we have the best offensive player, and that goes to the Deputy Premier. One might think it is because he turned everything into an attack on Labor, temporarily forgetting that we are not the ones in government. The Deputy Premier receives the 'most offensive' award because he has absolutely sold Queensland women out. When we confronted the Deputy Premier with evidence that WorkCover board member Greg Hallam—a man the Deputy Premier had hand-picked and installed into that role without a merit process—had made disturbing social media posts where he discussed women in 'slutty nurse' outfits and how women were nags, the Deputy Premier failed to condemn—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cooper, can you withdraw that unparliamentary language?

Ms BUSH: Sorry; I withdraw. The Deputy Premier failed to condemn those comments then and he has failed to act since. Greg Hallam remains the deputy chair of the WorkCover board. That failure of leadership is why the Deputy Premier has earned the most offensive player award for estimates.


The next award is our top scorer, and it goes to the person who has absolutely hit the jackpot and scored big-time. The winner of this award has been described as many things—a failed Brisbane City councillor and the failed federal member for Ryan—but now we know him as the CEO of Economic Development Queensland. It is none other than Julian Simmonds. One day after the Premier said that he did not believe in career politicians being appointed to top jobs in the public sector we learned that Simmonds, whose entire career has been constrained to political appointments and election defeats, has walked straight into a \$312,000 role—and this is the kicker—with no merit process. That takes a special kind of talent. Well done to Mr Simmonds for being our top scorer.

The most defensive player goes to the Minister for Youth, the member for Bonney, who expertly defended his way out of any responsibility in that portfolio: cost of living, does not really impact young

people; safety at work, it is irrelevant; and housing, definitely not something that young people care about. Well done to the Minister for Youth on his defensive techniques.

I thought the MVP award had to go to the Deputy Premier, who certainly remains our most valuable player on the government's benches. The Premier continues to remind his team to not fixate on ideology and culture wars, but the Deputy Premier valiantly trudges on. The Deputy Premier is our MVP on the government benches.

I thank our refs and the ball boys and girls—the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Hansard and our parliamentary secretaries—who have done a great job. I thank all of the public sector employees who are the real athletes of estimates. The institution of estimates is perhaps the greatest opportunity that we have, particularly in a unicameral parliament, to scrutinise the government's spending, and it is regrettable that the government this year did not keep to their promise to improve the process. I do hope they consider how they could reform the estimates process next year and improve the experience for the whole of Queensland.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.57 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. This budget process was another opportunity for us to contrast 10 years of decline under those opposite with the 10 months of delivery under the Crisafulli government. If we needed any more proof that Labor is not up to the task of government, we need look no further than the performance of the opposition during the recent budget estimates hearings for my portfolio of transport and main roads. Sitting on the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee was a former transport minister, no less. This former transport minister spent the best part of 15 minutes challenging his former director-general to some bizarre picture association game.

Mr Mellish: It's a bus.

Mr MICKELBERG: I would say to the member for Aspley that if he does not know how to recognise a train then it is time for him to hand in his resignation to the Leader of the Opposition.

Unlike those opposite, we are delivering. I was pleased to outline to the committee the Crisafulli government's plan for the Wave and how it will benefit the people of the Sunshine Coast. We had two decades of Labor promising to deliver heavy rail to the Sunshine Coast—to Caloundra by 2015 and to Maroochydore by 2020—and in the first 10 months of the Crisafulli government we have already started the procurement for stage 1 of the Wave to Caloundra.

Best case, if I consider the former government's position, that is where Labor were going to stop. Labor's plan was to turn Caloundra into a car park. That was unacceptable to the people of Caloundra—I know the member for Caloundra knows that—and it is unacceptable to our government. That is why we are pressing on with stage 2 to Birtinya and have already started planning for stage 3, which will not end at Maroochydore but go all the way through to the Sunshine Coast Airport by 2032.

The Crisafulli government will also deliver the Mooloolah River Interchange as part of the Wave. Locals have been waiting for decades to see the MRI delivered, but after Labor withdrew the funding—backed by the former transport minister; one of his first acts when he came into the portfolio—we are getting that project back on track.

Our government's public transport ambitions also extend to the Gold Coast. I was pleased to update the committee on the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project. In the last 10 months the Crisafulli government has awarded the contract for design and preconstruction—something that Labor could not do in their 10 years in government. They mismanaged that project. They kept Queenslanders in the dark about a massive cost blowout. We are getting on with the job of delivering Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail.

Talking about cost blowouts, let's talk about Cross River Rail for a minute. The committee heard a very important contribution from the CEO of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority about what the former minister knew about delays to that project. The member for Aspley would like to say that he was completely unaware of delays but let's look at what the CEO of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority—his CEO when he was the minister—said in estimates. He stated—

The member—

for Aspley—

was the minister at the time, so we were providing briefings. In the period leading up to September 2024, we had entered a stage where quite significant industrial activity was happening. By September we had moved from 21 days of protected industrial action to 54 days. At that stage, it was becoming quite evident—and I briefed the government at the time—that the project was under threat and that the contractor was experiencing financial distress. We briefed the government at that time that the construction

timeframe for delivery was slipping and that there was an expectation that construction may not be completed. Again, I point out this was after 54 days of protected action and completion of construction could have been as late as 2027.

That was at that time. That cat is out of the bag. Labor knew before the election that Cross River Rail could not be finished when they said it would be finished. They knew there were additional delays, but they did not tell Queenslanders. To update the House, there ended up being 148 days lost due to the CFMEU's industrial action—lost productivity caused by the CFMEU, aided and abetted by those opposite.

My job as Minister for Transport and Main Roads is to reverse the decline that we saw under Labor and get Cross River Rail and all of the other projects back on track. In 10 months the Crisafulli government has been doing that. That includes being honest and open with Queenslanders—something that those opposite also could not do.

Unfortunately, because of some shenanigans from those opposite, I did not get the opportunity to make a closing statement at estimates. As I did not get that chance, I would like to thank the secretariat and the committee for their work during the estimates process. I thank all those in my department involved in the preparations for estimates.

(Time expired)



Mr KING (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.02 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate as a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee. Firstly, I thank all the parliamentary and departmental staff who facilitated this year's estimates process. As a former committee chair, I know there is a huge amount of work that goes into it. Our committee examines the portfolios of four different ministers and our hearing ran over 1½ days this year. It is a lot to pull together logistically, so thanks to all those involved, including the committee members.

As a former committee chair, there are a couple of comments I want to make about how estimates ran this year—our first Crisafulli LNP government estimates experience. It is unsurprising to me that lines of questioning throughout the estimates process were repeatedly shut down or complicated, with regular guest appearances from argumentative non-committee members. The LNP government's call to have the Speaker or Deputy Speaker chair each proceeding speaks volumes about the low trust level the Premier and Deputy Premier must have in their own appointed committee chairs. That is not the feeling I share, committee chair.

Instead of robust and transparent questions and answers, we had constant and distracting points of order, constant challenging of relevance and deflecting and avoidance from ministers. The member for Moggill, the Leader of the House, seemed to have no purpose attending our hearings, except to block questions. He used the term 'point of order' 42 times by my count. Not to be outdone, the chair of the committee, the member for Lockyer, who was not allowed to chair the process, used the term 'point of order' 53 times. This is ridiculous and must have been frustrating to the Speaker who was expertly trying to guide proceedings. The Speaker did a really good job. I think next year the full panel of temporary speakers should be given this task to give those two a break. It was a champion effort.

We did get some answers though. Here are some of the things we discovered. The LNP will not be following through on Labor's Queensland Battery Industry Strategy, despite confirmation from the director-general that research indicated that it could generate up to \$1.3 billion in economic activity and create over 9,000 jobs.

The LNP throws the pub test out the window when it comes to appointing LNP mates to plum jobs and respecting council decisions on development applications for their LNP political donors. What happened to the LNP government's 'the jobs for mates days are over' quote?

Director-General Sosso believes only Nostradamus can predict when the first new homes will be delivered under the Residential Activation Fund so loudly touted by this government. There appeared to be differing interpretations of who is eligible for temporary refuge accommodation under the Immediate Housing Response guidelines.


The LNP's Games On! funding seems to be mostly a front for funding LNP election commitments. There is no clear criteria established for further funding rounds either.

For Sunshine Coast commuters we discovered that buses would replace trains for part of the long-awaited Sunshine Coast rail expansion. In Brisbane they say that no state funding is forthcoming for the Story Bridge restoration. The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program will be at least a year behind schedule and the jury is out on any ongoing commitment to the Zero Emission Bus Program targets.

The government does not want Queenslanders to see its advice on the dredging of Pumicestone Passage. This issue has been raised with me as a pointless waste of money by constituents who frequent Bribie for recreational activities. The Deputy Premier's bold 'dredge baby dredge' statement should be backed up with strong evidence from the department showing this is the way to go, but that evidence is hidden and cannot be shown.

There was one bit of good news for my community though, with the director-general of the Department of Transport and Main Roads confirming she is doubling the already secured allocation of \$6 million for my park-and-ride commitment at Narangba Railway Station to \$12 million. That presumably might explain the delay in the department finalising the design—because it will have to be a bigger one now; yeah!—for this project which has apparently been ongoing for years. I look forward to news of a sod turning in coming months.

The fresh start for Queensland promised pre-election by the LNP certainly was not evident in the recent estimates process. Once again, we saw evidence the LNP says one thing in opposition and does another in government. A truly transparent and accountable government does not need to muddy the waters with points of order and controlled narratives. It leads me to ask: what do they not want Queenslanders to know?

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (4.07 pm): I want to use this opportunity to correct some of the scare campaigns that we have unfortunately seen the Labor Party share.

Mr Head: They'd never do that.

Mr O'CONNOR: They would, member for Callide. You would be shocked to hear it, but they would. I will take that interjection. Scare campaigns were included in the statement of reservation to the committee's report. We did have some hard-hitting questions from the failed former housing minister, now shadow housing minister. One of them was: 'Director-General, you were the former director-general for housing under the previous Labor government?' Yes, he was; he was her director-general. I am glad we could clarify that.

The first line of questioning from the member for Gaven was around \$74 million in operational funding that we have in our housing program to deliver our housing pipeline. That money is to help support our attempts to quadruple the number of homes that we are delivering. On average Labor delivered 509 homes per year. Over the last decade we have made a very clear commitment to ramp that up to delivering over 2,000 social and community homes.

This funding that the former minister, now shadow minister, was attacking included funding for 74 public servants who are involved in delivering social and community housing across Queensland and who were only funded to 30 June. They are public servants who are essential to our delivery of more housing across Queensland, particularly as we deliver more housing than the former government could dream of. I will defend them every day of the week because they do an outstanding job. They have a new process that will opening very soon that will be an always open procurement process. They deserve to be there and they deserve to have the job certainty that they now have under the Crisafulli LNP government.

At the committee hearing the former minister, now shadow minister, made a ridiculous claim that this government will be selling 1,000 social homes. That claim was not based on a shred of evidence at the hearing. The director-general, who was, in fact, the former minister's director-general—just to remind the member for Gaven—confirmed at estimates that there is no commencement of a sales program. Like every government before us, including Labor, we are properly managing our portfolio. That sometimes means disposing of homes that have been damaged by natural disasters, disposing of end-of-life stock or sites that simply are not suitable for delivering social housing. I very much look forward to highlighting that ridiculous claim that the member for Gaven raised of selling 1,000 homes and to coming back over the next 12 months towards the next budget to show how false it is. This is not a fire sale; it is basic asset management.

The member for Gaven raised again, as has been done repeatedly, our updated guidelines for our Immediate Housing Response which were designed with the specialist homelessness service sector. I will quote directly from the hearing transcript—

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, as a follow-up, it is the case, though, that the guidelines prevent someone from getting emergency housing if they are not on the Social Housing Register; correct?

Mr Cridland: No, that is not correct. It does not prevent them from getting emergency housing.


The director-general corrected the record. It is a flat-out false claim and the member for Gaven should stop making it as frequently as she does. Households in short-term accommodation are supported to connect with our housing service centres and to begin the process of getting onto a longer term housing pathway, as it should be.

The member for Gaven also went in to bat for the pathways shared equity program. I can advise, as we found out during the hearing, that the success of that program was to have not one loan settled in 2024-25. There was one loan applied for in that financial year, but it was settled in 2025-26. Is it any wonder that we are in the housing crisis we are in given that that is the measure of success? We, of course, have our Boost to Buy program, which will be the most generous shared equity scheme in the nation, and we are very proud to be delivering that.

In the public works portfolio, we saw a failure of the former government to provide ongoing capital funding beyond 2026-27. We were very clear that we are looking at a new way of delivering government employee housing. We are very keen to be working across government to do that.

In the youth portfolio, the member for Nudgee got 18 of the 25 minutes available and still found reason to complain. Instead of asking us how we are empowering young Queenslanders, there were many questions—some that I will not dignify by raising—that were far outside the realm of the youth portfolio.

While Labor runs scare campaigns, this government is delivering solutions. We very much look forward to seeing the impact of our record housing budget over the next 12 months.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.12 pm): The last time this parliament sat was when the LNP Crisafulli government delivered its first budget. The opposition was alarmed to see key details stripped from their transport budget for this budget and those in the future via their butchering of QTRIP. Now we know why this transport minister so confidently declared projects would be delivered ‘on time and on budget’: there are now no timelines and no budgets that he can be held accountable to. This minister has strongarmed his department into—we know they did not want to do it—this not open and not transparent display of transport projects in the budget process.

Heading into last month’s estimates hearings, we were hopeful for transparency and answers on many issues such as the future of Queensland’s transport network—details like funding for stage 4 of Gold Coast Light Rail, timelines for the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program and how the next phases of the Coomera Connector will proceed. Sadly, we got none of that. Instead, we got a political spectacle, with 17 points of order raised by LNP committee members during the transport and main roads session alone—17 interruptions in just four hours. Rather than allowing for public scrutiny, they blocked questions and dodged accountability. The LNP made it clear: politics over public interest.

When I asked the transport minister about the last time he transferred from a train to a bus, he responded with a lengthy monologue about the lack of rail on the Sunshine Coast—a strange deflection from the minister responsible for the Wave, a mode of transport that, as confirmed by the director-general, is not a train. But, of course, the minister responsible for the project would probably be more the Deputy Premier! Speaking of which, where is the Deputy Premier’s review into the Gold Coast Light Rail stage 4? It was due midyear, yet here we are at the end of August with no report, no transparency and no funding. Will the Deputy Premier at least return the \$15 million the Gold Coast City council contributed to the joint business case, which has been put on hold?

Residents from Burleigh to Coolangatta are still in the dark about this critical transport corridor’s future. When I asked what consideration had been given to proposals to toll future stages of the Coomera Connector, the committee was told that was a matter for the Treasurer. We also had no confirmation and a bit of confusion about stage 2 of this vital project going forward.

A simple question about the status of the Zero Emission Bus Program revealed a clear contradiction between the minister and his director-general.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr MELLISH: While the director-general confirmed there is money in the 2025-26 budget to support essential depot infrastructure, the minister appeared to walk back the LNP’s previous commitments, saying they will not commit to actions that sound good in a media release but are completely unachievable. I hear the minister chirping now, but he was happy to waffle on for eight minutes when I was asking for simple responses, filibustering because he did not want to stand up to scrutiny. The minister maybe needs to slow down a bit here in the House and out there in the public.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order, members!

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, order! Both sides, order!

Mr MELLISH: The minister is going a bit fast and he needs to take it easy. Maybe he knew what the LNP conference was talking about when it comes to zero-emission buses, dog whistling to the anti net zero crowd. Despite the program going to tender over a year ago, industry providers have heard little. How can the industry plan for the future if the government will not communicate with them?

When I asked the director-general about advice given on dredging in the Pumicestone Passage—another Deputy Premier backed vanity project—LNP committee members argued that Maritime Safety Queensland was not under the transport minister's remit. This was a decision of government. They are hiding the details. They are clearly not releasing what the Maritime Safety Queensland advice is.

Mr Powell: Tell that to the people of Caloundra!

Mr MELLISH: I take the interjection from the member for Glass House. I doubt he will release the information, either.

Later, the minister washed his hands of the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program entirely, refusing to engage with questions about mounting delays and how that affects the broader train manufacturing program. After some excellent questioning by the member for Bundaberg, QTMP's delay of at least a year was finally confirmed by the manufacturing minister in his session. We have long suspected that the LNP held this program and Maryborough in contempt. Designed to meet the growing demands on Queensland's existing train fleet and to bring new life into Maryborough's manufacturing sector, the QTMP must be a priority for this government, but it does not feel that way.

In the end, I left estimates with more questions than when I entered: will the Premier ever make good on his promise to buy back the Airtrain before the 2032 Olympics; will the Port of Cairns common user facility be handed to private investors; will the Coomera Connector be tolled; and will the real transport minister in this government please stand up?

QTRIP is supposed to articulate this government's transport vision and priorities, but under this LNP government Queensland is being held back. They have butchered transparency. They have butchered QTRIP. The answers to the questions that we asked were not just for us. They were for communities waiting for projects. They were for local contractors. They were for local councils. They were for local industry players who need to know when these projects will start. This minister promised 'on time and on budget' multiple times and he has rewritten the entire transport budget, because now there are no timeframes and no budgets.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr MELLISH: This government is running away from transparency.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, your interjections are not being taken.



Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (4.17 pm): I rise today to support the Appropriation Bill 2025. I thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for their time during estimates. The estimates hearing was an interesting exercise. The statement of reservation shows how desperate the former government were to try to find something that they could criticise. What they criticised after their 10 years of decline was quite creative and imaginative.

How could you criticise the Games On! election commitment of \$250 million that is delivering infrastructure right across the state to both LNP and non-government seats? They have accused this program of pork-barrelling. I want to let my colleagues in the House know that the number of commitments that are going to be delivered with Games On! is proportionate to the number of seats each party holds in this House. That is extraordinary, isn't it? Apparently it is pork-barrelling when the number of commitments is proportionate to the number of seats each party holds in the House. I do not know where they are coming from with this pork-barrelling allegation.

Does the member for Aspley think it is pork-barrelling when he gets \$1.8 million for the Aspley Hornets football clubhouse? I wish there was a club in my electorate that got \$1.8 million. The member for Miller is here. The Souths Rugby Union Club at Yeronga is going to get a million to finish the upgrades to their clubhouse and facilities that the member for Miller could not deliver over 10 years.

The member for Algeester is going to get \$200,000 for a lighting upgrade at the Souths Acacia Ridge Rugby League Club. The member for Bundaberg gets \$620,000 to upgrade facilities at the Bundaberg Netball Association. I notice that the member for Cairns is in the House. He gets a \$6 million investment in the Manunda sports precinct redevelopment. I dream of having \$6 million for one of my clubs.

The member for Ferny Grove will get \$1.5 million towards the Honeyeater Park Sport Precinct to deliver new playing fields. The member for Ipswich will get \$780,000 for eight new synthetic grass tennis courts. I dream of having that in my electorate. For the member for Gaven there are five commitments, ranging from \$2 million for SUNS Academy to \$60,000 for a Nerang BMX toilet block. Kurwongbah gets \$500,000 to upgrade the Burpengary Jets playing fields. Pine Rivers receives \$180,000 for lighting upgrades for the Pine Rivers Swans. Stafford gets \$1.5 million for a new artificial turf pitch and Toohey gets \$180,000. I could go on and on, but I do not have enough time. I do not know of another government that went to an election and delivered commitments for the candidates who were not successful. That is what this government has done because we are governing for all of Queensland.

I have not yet got to our Play On! sports vouchers. What a fantastic policy that is. We locked in funding for the next four years. The previous government's commitment went to 30 June. We recognise that it needs to be proportionately allocated across the state. As with our Games On! commitment, our Play On! vouchers will ensure people in the regions do not miss out. We also wanted to make sure that anybody with a disability who wants to play sport—anyone with a disability; there is no limit—can apply and get funding under this policy initiative. We also wanted to make sure that summer and winter sports are again proportionately allocated so no-one misses out. This is a great program which has been very much appreciated.

The temerity of the opposition to criticise us about Olympic and Paralympic Games preparation when we had 1,400 days of indecision or, when they made a decision, it was chaotic. The adults in the room finally delivered the 2032 Delivery Plan earlier this year, which has now given us a blueprint for the way forward. There will be events in the regions. The whole state has suddenly got behind the games and cannot wait, including: Rockhampton, Maryborough, Townsville and the Whitsundays—what a great background for sailing—Toowoomba, Cairns and the Sunshine Coast. What a games it is going to be for all of Queensland!

(Time expired)



Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (4.22 pm): I am pleased to provide a contribution to the committee report on the Appropriation Bill 2025. I thank all members of the committee for their deliberations through this process, particularly those members of the committee who kept calling female shadow ministers argumentative when we were simply seeking answers. In particular, I acknowledge the many public servants involved in the budget estimates process. Preparing for an estimates hearing is an important, but significant, task in the preparation of briefs and information and I recognise this effort.

In the short time that I have, I would like to concentrate on a few key issues that arose in the public works estimates hearing. What became quite evident is that the government believes it should be judged very differently to the former Labor government when it comes to the funding of initiatives and programs. Whilst their narrative this term, and certainly during this budget process, has been that Labor should have budgeted years and years out for particular programs or infrastructure, they do not accept this when they themselves do not budget in the forwards. It is a particular hypocrisy that is galling, to say the least. The minister previously said exactly the same thing. We saw evidence of this when it came to the funding of government employee housing.

When Labor was in power we funded a capital program of \$677.5 million to build 439 additional government employee homes between 2022 and 2027. Despite an acknowledged ongoing demand for government employee housing, the LNP government has not contributed one additional cent beyond the 2026-27 financial year. When asked why no funding was in the forwards, the minister was quick to point out that there will be budgets before the program expires. Yes, but this is their budget. They could have put that money into the forwards at any time, but they have chosen not to. We know how important it is for Queensland government frontline service staff to have access to secure, cost-effective accommodation in regional and remote areas of Queensland where they are needed most. These are for our ambulance workers, nurses, police officers and teachers. The LNP government has claimed to be doing what is right for frontline services. They have claimed they are backing the regions, yet when pen hits paper they have let them down. Last year David Crisafulli promised Queenslanders he would deliver a plan that would improve housing affordability and availability, yet he now expects our nurses, teachers and police officers to take up the very few rentals that are left in remote and regional

Queensland. We know these areas have some of the tightest vacancy rates across the state, and the government has decided to just wait for Labor's money to run out.


The director-general confirmed there is an ongoing demand for government employee housing, particularly in rural and remote areas. It was also confirmed that agencies have reported instances where a lack of available employee housing has delivered or prevented recruitment. This is very concerning. At a time when the government seems to be backing away from their election commitment to give our nurses and teachers nation-leading pay and better working conditions, it seems they now also want to reduce their living conditions.

During the hearing we also heard from the new CEO of the QBCC. I extend my thanks to him for providing the committee with some important information regarding workloads and case management issues within the organisation. It would seem that the QBCC is currently operating with a significant vacancy rate, which is most concerning. The CEO advised they currently have 674 full-time equivalent staff on the books but are budgeted for 765. That would calculate to approximately 91 roles that are not filled or are yet to be filled. It is perhaps not surprising to hear that at the time of the hearing the QBCC had 558 cases pending allocation to an investigator and 437 active investigations on foot. Whilst I recognise the work underway to manage these workloads, including through digital and productivity improvements, many started under the previous Labor government. That is something this side of the House will be monitoring closely.

I was pleased to hear the CEO discuss the measures they are taking to support QBCC staff with mental health supports. It is clear that, unless they plug the vacancies, the workload will continue to climb and mental health will suffer. This is even before referencing the mental anguish so many home owners and builders are still enduring from their day-to-day interactions with the agency—something this government claims to be fixing.

Finally, I note the minister's comment during the public hearing that he had invited the member for Mulgrave to visit the Cairns Rapid Accommodation and Apprenticeship Centre, RAAC, to see 'the modular homes that are being constructed for First Nations communities across this state'. I will once again formally request the minister to allow me to visit the RAAC in my role as shadow minister for public works when I next travel to Cairns. So far the minister has denied me access. I would hope that he will reconsider his decision, given he has given LNP members visitation rights.

I thank the Labor members of the committee for their substantial statement of reservation to the committee's report and thank opposition staff for their support.

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (4.27 pm): As a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, I had the pleasure of participating in the recent budget estimates hearing in relation to the Appropriation Bill 2025—the best budget Queenslanders have seen in a decade from the best Treasurer we have seen in a long time. Our committee, so ably chaired by Jim McDonald, was the A-team. In saying that I mean no disrespect to all of the other hardworking committees, however, we did have a stellar line-up: the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations; the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth; the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games; and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

With the opposition wheeling out its big guns in the form of shadow minister after shadow minister, I expected there would be quite a showing. Alas, that was not to be. As clearly enunciated in its statement of reservation, the opposition attack was based on petty nitpicking, rehashing old news and attacking the reputations of people who have devoted their working lives to this great state. Labor's effort was shambolic at best.

Mr Power: Can't hear you over the chopper.

Mr KEMPTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those remarks and ask that they be withdrawn. They contain imputations as to my credibility and I ask that the member withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): I will take some advice on that. The member has taken personal offence. Member for Logan, will you withdraw?

Mr POWER: I would. I would also like to clarify that I made no imputation on the member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member—

Mr POWER: There were two allegations made. I made no imputation on the member whatsoever.

Mr KEMPTON: Point of order—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I did not hear. Did you withdraw?

Mr POWER: I withdraw.

Mr KEMPTON: And the member for Cairns as well, please, Deputy Speaker. I understand he made the same comment. I certainly heard it from two people, not just one.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear the member make any statement.

Mr KEMPTON: Instead of a coherent, strategic and meaningful response to the bill, the Labor opposition by its lacklustre performance simply reaffirmed to Queenslanders that, after 10 years of decline by an inept Labor government, Queenslanders are now seeing a Crisafulli LNP government that after just six months is focusing on delivery, delivery, delivery. Our committee recommends that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

Testament to the submissions of each of the ministers and their directors-general of the enormous task they have taken on and the success of this government, the committee heard of not only election promises being funded in the budget but also the foundations for the future of our great state being meticulously delivered. The LNP Crisafulli government went to the election promising to reduce numbers of victims of crime, arrest the housing crisis and address the hospital crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. Every one of its promises has been or is in the process of being delivered. There is that word again: delivery. When the governance of our great state is left in a state of decline year after year, year in and year out, by an inept government, there is little wonder that Labor left the state in a state of crisis.

For my electorate of Cook, the cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis, the lack of medical services and crime are not new concepts and were exacerbated over a decade by neglect and decline by a Labor government which was more interested in token gestures and was represented by members who were missing in action for the whole decade. By comparison, the Crisafulli government has in just 10 months delivered on its promise to provide world-class health services and housing solutions and address crime and many other important issues facing my vast electorate. Shining examples of delivery in Cook are the Residential Activation Fund, which is unlocking hundreds of housing blocks across my electorate, the provision of water facility upgrades to remote Indigenous communities and the Barron River bridge, to name a few. Remote and regional Queensland is a priority of Premier David Crisafulli and our government.

Apart from an election, there can be no greater opportunity for an opposition to test the performance of a government than the budget estimates hearings. Notwithstanding the appointment of independent chairs, more question time, the standing orders and the ability to replace sitting committee members with seasoned shadow ministers, the Labor Party failed to prosecute its case in this important component of the democratic process. It failed to land a blow. I am proud to be a part of this government that is delivering after a decade of decline. I commend this report to the House.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (4.33 pm): I am pleased to follow the housing minister because his speech, frankly, was flatter than his poll numbers. It is no wonder, after the *Brisbane Times* clearly took the air right out of him this week with shocking poll numbers for those sitting opposite. It is not surprising, given the track record of the LNP in the last six months. The Minister for Housing opened his estimates session with great fanfare about the 6,000 homes. One would think he had been laying bricks with his own two hands with the fanfare we had, but here is the rub: when you dig beneath the spin, you find that those 6,000 homes were not his achievement at all. In fact, they were Labor's. They were funded by Labor, approved by Labor and driven by Labor. While the minister struts around in his hard hat for the cameras, the truth is that he is cutting ribbons on homes he did not build and pretending that it is his work.

Behind the glossy announcements is a government dismantling social and affordable housing. Let's be honest. We know that the strings are not being pulled by the member for Bonney; they are being pulled by the member for Kawana. Minister Bleijie is trying to scrap affordable housing targets in priority development areas and has axed 1,000 homes across the state, including in his own backyard. The member for Bonney seems to be confused with that figure, so I want to make it really clear for him. The Deputy Premier has already axed 1,000 homes, many of which were affordable homes. That is on top of the public housing that the member for Bonney is now proposing to sell off—two different programs, both cuts. The member for Bonney seems to be confused by those figures.

We also have Julian Simmonds in place to do their bidding. This former LNP councillor, former federal LNP MP and partisan attack dog has been parachuted into the top job at Economic Development Queensland. This is a \$300,000-a-year gig handed over without advertisement, just a cosy chat with the Deputy Premier's chief of staff. Let's call that for what it is. It is about putting Minister Bleijie's mate in charge of the public developer so he can carry out the government's dirty work of axing social and affordable housing projects in LNP electorates that they do not like. Imagine having a public developer that does not even require a single percentage of its projects to include social and affordable housing. It is madness. It is like running a hospital that bans doctors. It completely defeats the entire purpose of having a public developer doing housing.

The Premier tells Queenslanders that the Public Service should be beyond reproach and free of partisanship, but then he hires a Liberal National Party lifer to run the state's development arm. That is not reform; that is jobs for the boys at the expense of homes for Queenslanders. When it comes to delivering new homes, the arrogance is staggering. When asked when the first homes under the Residential Activation Fund would actually be built, the director-general shrugged and said, 'I am not Nostradamus; I would not have a clue.'


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member, could I ask you to resume your seat. The time for this debate has expired.

Report adopted.

Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): The question is—

That the report of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee be adopted.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.36 pm): I rise to make a short contribution in respect of the budget estimates process on the portfolio areas that we reviewed with the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, and the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation. One could be forgiven for pondering if perhaps those on the non-government side of the House are struggling with a severe case of relevance deprivation, because the statement of reservation that is attached to the budget estimates report has 14 pages of press cuttings and pictures of Labor members of the House talking about all the blows they took during the budget process. What a joke that is: the abject hypocrisy of some of the commentary.

We see a former government which had 10 years to fix many of these issues that we have seen within our health system and 10 years to deal with the environmental issues and the development of a decent tourism strategy. In fact, I only have to cast my mind back four or five months to when we were required to wrap up a report in the health and environment committee to do with a review that was supposed to have happened around environmental tourism and endangered species. What did that report talk about? It talked about delays and it talked about a strategy that was supposed to have been developed but had not been developed.

Everywhere we look, we can see the trail of despair and destruction left by the previous government where they just simply failed to deliver. Let's contrast that with the new Crisafulli government, which in just 10 months have been delivering time and time again on key election promises and are sorting out the mess and the trail of destruction and despair left by the previous government. We have spent 10 months scrambling to try to pull the figures together and find the money to deliver projects that were promised but unfunded. Then there are the games they played in the statement of reservation. There are some wonderful stories about, 'Look at us. We got them.' No, they did not. All they did was highlight how puerile they have been and how ineffective they have been over the past 10 years.

What did we do? The Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation was able to talk about our new tourism strategy and some of the other plans that we have around environmental tourism. He was able to answer questions about things like the Wangetti Trail up in Cairns and what a disaster that has been. A project that should have cost \$20 million has blown out to \$40 million and I think they have only built about 30 per cent of the trail.


What did we hear from others with respect to the health minister? We heard Labor members time and time again attacking the health minister, but not having the courage to ask him any questions. Where were most of the questions directed? To the director-general. What did they spend most of their time doing? Challenging and questioning the director-general about his role, but not prepared to face the fact that he was there trying to deal with the despair and the destructive practices of the previous

government in setting budgets for projects that were unfunded and promising to deliver things where there was no money to achieve. All I can say in my very short five minutes is I am so glad that we have been able to change the government in Queensland and deliver a government that will get on with the job of delivering for Queenslanders.

We heard from the health minister as he spoke about the Hospital Rescue Plan and the fact that we now have a clear plan for more hospital beds—

Mr Kempton: A fresh start.

Mr MOLHOEK: Absolutely. I take that interjection from the member for Cook—a serious, fresh start for Queensland, a government that is committed to delivering and which, in just 10 months, has been focused more on delivery than the previous Labor government who presided over 10 years of despair.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (4.41 pm): In terms of their health estimates hearing, what a cluster for the government. Before I go into that, I will thank our Queensland Health and Queensland Ambulance Service staff who keep our health system going, often in very tough circumstances, and getting worse under this Crisafulli government. While our hardworking health workers hold the system together, this government is tearing it apart—breaking promise after promise, hiding the truth, indefinitely blocking hospital expansions, interfering in the Chief Health Officer merit-based process to rescind the successful candidate's job offer, and leaving Queenslanders waiting longer and longer for care. We saw that in the estimates.

What we saw in this estimates was a crumbling of any credibility that the Crisafulli government had when it comes to health. Let's start with the facts laid bare under questioning. The minister and director-general confirmed that more than 61,000 Queenslanders are currently waiting for elective surgery, but more concerning is the number waiting longer than clinically recommended times has exploded by 76 per cent in just one year. That is a big blowout—from 3,299 to 5,820, an increase of 2,521. On specialist outpatients, the picture was even bleaker: 315,000 Queenslanders on the list, with more than 123,000 of them waiting far too long. That is a more than 30 per cent increase in people waiting longer than the clinically recommended time.

We also learned that the government spent three times more on self-promotion than the free flu jab promotion. Just \$675,000 could be found to promote the flu vaccination—where it went, I have no idea; I have never seen one of their ads—in one of the worst flu seasons, while they spent three times that, \$1.67 million, advertising their so-called Hospital Rescue Plan which is really a cuts plan. As a result, this winter Queensland had lower vaccination coverage than the national average across every single age group, confirmed at the hearing when the director-general accepted the tabled data showed Queensland bumping along the bottom—a national embarrassment when it comes to vaccination, but one that the health minister is absolutely proud of. Well, it speaks volumes, does it not? He was proud of it today. The results were as predictable as they are tragic: hospitals across the state overwhelmed, elective surgeries cancelled and postponed, and emergency departments on bypass due to the predictable surge in flu cases. That is a direct consequence of a minister who is asleep at the wheel on preventative health.

Worst still, as hospitals were overwhelmed and elective surgeries were cancelled across the state, rather than admit they failed on preventative health and announcing a plan to fix it, the government doubled down, and we know the Premier and Deputy Premier have failed to outline, in a total failure of leadership, whether they had their flu jabs at all, casting doubt on vaccination, and a very poor outcome. While they are trying to appeal to the anti-vax vote, what we are seeing is the health system getting worse and worse.

Worryingly for Queenslanders who rely on public health care, Labor committed to 2,200 new beds by 2028. The Crisafulli government also matched that, but then reneged on that promise when the minister said, not at estimates, but he said that he checked and no commitment was made when in fact it is on tape—another thing this hapless minister got wrong again.


During estimates, we asked about the Coomera and Bundaberg hospitals and, embarrassingly, the HHS CEOs could not provide a single time line or completion date for those upgrades, indefinitely deferred by this government. There is billions of dollars in public hospital funding on the line with zero transparency, no funding, no time lines, hidden and secret, while we have the minister boasting about 2,600 new beds, God only knows when—well into the 2030s, no doubt about that.

One of the most disgraceful broken promises and revelations at estimates was their betrayal of women who needed publicly funded IVF. They said they would not cut the Women and Girls' Health

Strategy. It was to provide IVF for women with cancer and other complex conditions by 1 July this year, yet it was left to the director-general to bell the cat and tell that we do not have a publicly funded IVF service in Queensland at this point in time. The minister was keeping it secret again, denying women who are suffering from cancer that service. It is an absolute disgrace.

We saw refusal to answer questions about funding cuts to Queensland's skin cancer prevention marketing program. Again, we see lots and lots of secrecy, lots of hiding, but lots of embarrassment and since then, of course, the Chief Health Officer debacle and scandal continues unabated. We see health is a basket case under this government and a basket case under this minister.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (4.46 pm): I rise today to speak on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report following the 2025-26 budget estimates process. Estimates is an important opportunity for members on all sides of the chamber to ask ministers about their portfolios and the proposed expenditure. There is plenty to talk about when it comes to our \$1.4 billion investment in the environment, tourism, science and innovation portfolio.

I would like at the outset to acknowledge the contribution of the hardworking and dedicated parliamentary staff, Mr Speaker and Mr Deputy Speaker, the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, chaired by the member for Southport, and all those working across the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation who had input into the day.

The opposition's statement of reservation is as good a read as a flimsy fantasy novel. Firstly, I want to touch on the fact that I am not even sure nor confident that either the member for Greenslopes or the member for South Brisbane were able to hear my responses, considering the member for Cairns giggled his way throughout the entire hearing. I am not sure why the member thought our government's funding restoration for tourism was funny, considering he was the former minister who was overseeing a 95 per cent funding cut to the tourism division, cuts to Tourism and Events Queensland, blowouts on the Wangetti Trail and a miserable track record when it comes to delivering ecotourism products. Instead of asking me questions on the Crisafulli government's first budget for tourism, he wanted to talk about issues from other portfolios on which his government had failed to deliver after a decade in power. He intentionally and negligently avoided asking questions on the Connecting Queensland Fund knowing full well Labor would have cut it throughout the forward years of the budget.

Events? Don't even get me started on events. The former minister for tourism could only handle the embarrassment of his deception being exposed by laughing at the actions of his government. Let's be clear, this is no laughing matter. Tourism is one in 11 jobs and the backbone of Queensland and the backbone of our regional economies. Those opposite were going to defund it.

On environment, there was a poor attempt to rewrite history and verbal public servants, but we should not be surprised—verballing the director-general about the Greater Glider Forest Park, saying it is not happening when the director-general simply said it was being reviewed. Labor are so passionate about the status of the Cape York Peninsula World Heritage listing that they do not even know how to spell it right in their own statement of reservation. That is the extent of Labor's interest in policy. It is all headlines and no substance—all media releases and no funding.

In October last year, Queenslanders saw through the Labor Party and their decade of decline. Instead, they voted for a government that will focus and deliver for them. The 2025-26 budget reflects the importance of the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, with \$1.4 billion allocated to get on with the job of delivering for Queenslanders. The budget locks and loads the funding required to deliver on our election commitments. It restores vital funding that Labor would have cut.


The Crisafulli government has delivered a \$1 billion investment in tourism, with \$200 million over four years towards aviation and product development. Our TEQ budget has been restored, with \$146 million to ensure it can continue to promote our great state and \$100 million for the first ever dedicated mega events attraction fund. It is no secret that we are going for the title of Australia's event capital. Some 45 ecotourism projects are to be delivered by 2045.

It is no surprise that visitors want to come here: Queensland's environment is the envy of the world. We want to ensure we can pass on our incredible natural environment to generations of Queenslanders to come. That is why we will expand our protected areas faster than Labor did. It is why we are supporting more wildlife hospitals, with \$39 million. It is why we are underpinning those values and priorities with a considerable investment of more than \$133 million in new funding to increase

efforts in expanding and caring for protected areas, environment stewardship and wildlife throughout Queensland. Our More Rangers, Better Neighbours initiative will see \$84.6 million over five years, as well as \$29.6 million ongoing, for enhanced management of our national parks. That includes not only our new park rangers but also restoring funding for 40 specialist fire rangers that Labor were going to cut.

This budget lays the foundation to deliver a fresh start for Queensland's future. It restores critical funding for services, programs and initiatives that were going to be cut or left unfunded by those opposite. It lays the foundation for the fresh start we promised. It is a plan to deal with the big crises left behind by Labor. The budget is delivering for Queensland. I commend the budget to the House.

(Time expired)

 **Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.52 pm): I was the victim of much love in question time from the Minister for Health this morning. I think he was trying to butter me up because he knew that I was going to hand down the report card on the health budget today. It is just not going to work. I have to give special mention and special marks to Premier Crisafulli: last year, when the member for Woodridge handed down the budget, he gave it a full endorsement without reading a single line. This year, when the member for Toowoomba South handed down the budget, no such endorsement was forthcoming. Quite frankly, now that I have read the budget I completely understand why.

I will start with health. Here comes the report card. I am afraid it is three Cs—C for cuts, C for cover-ups and C for culture wars. Premier Crisafulli said that when he says something it means something. I can tell members that it actually means nothing. This is a budget of broken promises. It promised transparency and accountability, but all we got were cuts, cover-ups and culture wars. They promised to fix ramping. Well, if you are going to fix ramping you have to build hospital beds.

What we saw in estimates was an enormous amount of wiggling out of promises to deliver infrastructure projects on time and on budget. In fact, multiple HHS CEOs were unable to provide basic information about projects in their HHSs such as the start and the finish dates of those projects. Are we seriously supposed to believe that these highly paid CEOs had no idea about the delivery dates for major infrastructure projects that are part of their services? I have no doubt that these hardworking public servants were telling the truth. That is just shows that they are being kept in the dark by the LNP. It is all part of the great LNP infrastructure cover-up. If the CEOs cannot answer these questions, how serious is this government about these projects? How can the CEOs plan these projects coming online if they have no idea—and, seemingly, little curiosity—about the start and finish dates of these projects? We walked away from estimates with no certainty about what projects would be delivered. How can you fix ramping if the CEOs cannot even name a date for when the projects would be completed so you can start planning?

Of course, we did find out about one service—that is, the spinal injuries service, which, shamefully, has no funding in this budget. What we did learn is that over 84 per cent of the 3,000 people in hospital with the flu are unvaccinated. That is shocking in and of itself. Even more shocking is the fact that the government spent three times more on promoting themselves than on promoting flu vaccination. They are more serious about self-promotion than health promotion. Is this incompetence, or is it just part of the culture war that saw the Premier and Deputy Premier dancing around trying to avoid publicly endorsing vaccination as an effective public health measure? I hope not, but when I see those anti-vaccination red incorporated associations giving the health minister a hard time at the LNP conference, what other conclusion can I draw?

The Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy was not safe. It seems there are no plans to commence publicly funded IVF for women with cancer. The LNP promised to fix rural maternity services. How is that going? Not so well in Biloela, according to the ABC last week—not real well when you cut the workforce attraction incentive scheme. The member for Callide gets an A—no, let's make it an A-plus—for yelling out at the top of his lungs about rural maternity services, but he sits silent when this measure is cut. This measure would have gotten health professionals into rural communities to deliver safe maternity services. The cuts to pill testing and the gender clinic service suggest that this health minister is focused on keeping the looney right of his party happy—


Mr HEAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe I was personally named. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): I will get some advice. Member for Greenslopes, if you did refer to the member for Callide, I ask you to withdraw.

Mr J KELLY: To assist the House, I withdraw. I am going to downgrade him. That is not an A-plus. He is going to get a C, like the rest of them! This budget gets three Cs—C for cuts, C for cover-up and C for culture wars—and let me chuck in a C for Callide as well.

The other portfolio areas did not do much better. Despite climate science being part of the minister's portfolio and charter letter and despite him being willing to answer questions, there was a protection racket run by the Leader of the House, the committee chair and the other members. I could not even get a question out—they took a point of order before I had even finished the question. When you see the motions that were carried at the LNP conference, you now know why they do not want us to ask questions about net zero or climate change. Science got no funding, innovation got no funding and First Nations tourism got shut down. I think the member for Cairns's words around the 20-year tourism plan being '45 pages of glossy pictures' were pretty accurate, as far as I was concerned. He was giggling throughout because, quite frankly, this budget for tourism was a joke.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.57 pm): The member for Greenslopes forgot one C—that is, the C for cowardice. They would not ask one question—not one question from the shadow minister for health, not one question—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister was asked a question by me. He is misleading the House. I ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): That is not a point of order, member for Miller.

Mr NICHOLLS: I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Speaker for the welcome change of pace that he brought to the estimates hearings this year. It was actually an endorsement of the decision to have an independent person chair the committee hearings and provide an unbiased opportunity for all to ask questions. My observation was that the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker both did a fine job. It was a privilege to be at the table to answer questions from the committee members, although I was a bit surprised at the paucity of questions to me from those opposite.

I also want to thank the hardworking staff at Queensland Health who do a terrific job in the face of some very difficult circumstances. I thank both the clinicians, nurses and staff who work in those hospitals and those who work in the department for their work in preparation for the budget.

The 2025-26 budget lays the foundation stones to start to repair a decade of decline under Labor and Labor's health crisis and it starts with our record \$33.1 billion investment in the health budget, a greater than 10 per cent increase. We saw this crisis develop over a decade and it was confirmed by the Queensland Audit Office *Health 2024* report. The QAO report called out Labor's record of failures in financial performance and sustainability.

Mr Bailey: How's that CHO thing going? No CHO. Low blow to CHO.

Mr NICHOLLS: The independent Queensland Audit Office—the member for Miller does not like hearing it because it calls into question his entire lefty political beliefs. He talks about ideology. When it comes to an ideologue on the left, they do not get much more left than the member for Miller. Honourable members will not hear him standing up and taking objection to that either, by any stretch of the imagination.


Let's turn around and look at infrastructure. The independent review of the former government's failed Capacity Expansion Program is the driver for our \$18.5 billion Hospital Rescue Plan, a rescue plan that will provide more than 2,600 new beds across Queensland, and the author, Mr Sangster, was a witness called to the inquiry. You would have thought if they had all this concern about the Hospital Rescue Plan they might have asked him a question. Did they ask Mr Sangster a question, one question? Have a guess, colleagues. Can anyone think how many it might be? It was zero—zip, nil, none. That is how many they asked. What we did see is the member for Greenslopes ask the chief executive of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service what type of car he drives, because that is really important to working out how we are going to build the hospital beds, the more than 600 beds at the Coomera Hospital! There was not one question to Mr Sangster about completion dates, funding, when it was going to be delivered or how the planning was going. He was there; he was there for the whole time and not one question was directed to him by the geniuses opposite. As I say, C is for cowardice.

There was not one question about Surgery Connect and how that is delivering more than \$1.7 billion over the next four years to reduce Labor's elective surgery waitlist. There was not one question about the reduction of more than 6,000 people from the waitlist, or the biggest single reduction

in one month in a decade, in April this year. Not one question did they ask in relation to the delivery of those services; not once did they want to go near it.

On the flu campaign, not once did they say, 'I wonder where that money is coming from.' When we explained to them that there was no money in the budget, we saw the opposition leader shuffle off and come back with a highly redacted piece of paper that he claimed was a budget submission. 'Give us the whole lot,' we said. 'We will have a look at it. We will ask the question.' But no, everything else was blacked out except one fanciful number, \$40 million broadly spread for nothing. What we know is that in coming to government there was no money allocated for the flu vaccine and now they complain about it and we have 5,000 fewer cases this year than last year under them, our campaign is running longer and we are spending more money in relation to it. So let's put paid to their false scare campaign in relation to that.

The member for Miller did not even have the hide to apologise to the chief executive of the Darling Downs Hospital and Hospital Service for his totally false and misleading claim about surgery cancellations where he exaggerated and frightened the people of regional Queensland with the claims that we know the member for Miller is famous for.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (5.03 pm): In embarking upon this lovely discussion, I also want to acknowledge the amount of work that goes into the estimates for a lot of the public servants. It is a huge amount of work and I want to acknowledge that. I will start where I should and that is with the tourism minister. He began his impressive contribution of ignorance talking about an industry he knows very little about. I suppose if you do not have much of a vision and you are not doing much except renaming old policies that have been working for years, you really do not have a lot to say. He actually started out saying, 'We are not doing this.' That is pretty much how he sounded not so long ago. The irony was that a lot of the people who were sitting around him were in key positions and they were sort of grimacing. I do not think he understands that a lot of those people were working with us to get those outcomes. It was really uncomfortable, but I think that highlights how little he knows about the industry and how little he knows about the portfolio.

The other thing which is really standing out quite clearly to many is the Crisafulli LNP government's decision to cancel two First Nations cultural centres in Brisbane and Cairns built deep uncertainty in the strength of our tourism sector, in particular, cultural tourism and brings into question the government's commitment to building these experiences. We have seen their impressive backflip on treaty and we have seen their impressive backflip on truth-telling, so what they are doing in this space should come as no surprise not just to our First Nation sector but to our tourism sector because that is where it is important. First Nations cultural centres could be a vital connection between the learning and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture for not just international tourists who, by the way, ranked this experience as one of their top three sought out experiences, but for all Australians. It is quite concerning. The chair of the Queensland First Nations Tourism Council told the *Australian* newspaper prior to the government announcing they were scrapping these centres—

I think it would be a wonderful gesture from the government that's based on good economic outcomes for, not only First Nations people but the tourism sector in general.

The tourism sector were very keen to see this take place because, as the minister keeps harping on about the Olympics and international numbers coming here, these are iconic institutions and they drive the tourism dollar. However, if you do not understand, you probably would not. I think what is more concerning is when you have somebody like Daniel Gschwind, who is a tourism icon, saying, 'I think there is a genuine interest from international visitors to learn more about our history and our cultural background as a nation.'

As it was revealed during the estimates hearing, the Department of Education, Arts Queensland and the relevant minister failed to consult with the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation. The minister had failed to reveal whether he had consulted with the relevant minister before cabinet ultimately made their decision, which was absolutely concerning. The minister said during the estimates—

One of the things I have learned and heard loud and clear is that our tourists these days are very different. They are looking for experiences and they want to get in touch with First Nations history, culture and immersive experiences.

It is clear from that statement that the government and the minister are not listening to what Queenslanders want. It is also regrettable that the minister has not met with Queensland Indigenous tourism industry leaders at all, as he committed to do. It says a lot.


The revelation that \$55 million of the \$130 million connecting aviation fund is carried over from the previous Attracting Aviation Investment Fund with less than \$10 million actually available and

\$45 million already contractually committed is deeply disappointing. More than a third of the fund is already unavailable, falling short of industry expectations for genuinely new funding. It is really quite interesting to see. The sector needs transparency and not recycled figures presented with a fresh view—enormously concerning.

Destination 2025, the government's strategy for the tourism—

Mr Powell: 2045.

Mr HEALY: Yes, that too. Destination 2045 is the government's view for the tourism industry and what have they done with it? There are 64 pages. If you take the pictures out, there is less than half and they have spent \$2,500,000 on advertising a government policy. There are a number of tourism industry people and a number of regional tourism organisations that are absolutely concerned that the priorities of members opposite are with their government, they are not with this industry and it is very clear to see. It is enormously concerning. There are real concerns out there in the industry and they are well founded.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (5.08 pm): I rise today as a member of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee to speak to Report No. 12 on the Appropriation Bill, our committee estimates report. The Crisafulli government is delivering on our election commitment to increase hours to the estimates process. We increased it by an additional day and four hours and included the independent Speaker and Deputy Speaker. This was a calm and methodical process introduced in accordance with the standing orders of the House.

As the Leader of the House indicated, it was stronger, fairer and more accountable. I want to thank the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for the professional manner in which they chaired these estimates hearings. I also want to put on record my personal thanks to all the parliamentary staff and the secretariat who worked tirelessly to ensure the estimates process ran smoothly.

I also want to put on the record my thanks to the director-general of Health, Dr David Rosengren, who is a highly respected senior staff specialist in emergency medicine with more than 30 years of clinical and leadership experience in both the public and private hospital sectors. He performed exceptionally well in the estimates process despite the member for Miller, the shadow health minister, asking more questions of the director-general and not one single one of the health minister.

The budget estimates process is vital in demonstrating transparency and scrutiny. As members of this House know, the real stories lie not in the numbers but in the lived experiences of those in our communities. In my electorate of Redcliffe, the health system is not just a line in the budget; it is the lifeline for thousands of families. Every week I hear from residents who rely on Redcliffe Hospital for emergency care, elective surgery and maternity services. For years they have told me about aging infrastructure and long waiting times after a decade of neglect from the former Labor government. That is why I welcome the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan—a record \$18.5 billion investment over five years which will deliver 2,600 new beds statewide and an additional 210 overnight beds for our Redcliffe Hospital and an additional 500 car parks. This plan addresses the cost overruns of the former government's failed capacity expansion program, restoring confidence that these projects will finally be delivered.

As the Minister for Health, Tim Nicholls, said in his response to the committee, this budget delivers the foundation for a fresh start, with more free health care than ever before. For Redcliffe families, that means better access to emergency care and shorter waiting times for elective surgery. We do acknowledge the challenges, and the committee heard evidence of long-stay patients—those clinically fit for discharge but unable to leave because of inadequate aged-care or disability supports. These blockages directly affect hospitals like Redcliffe, where beds are needed for acute care but remain occupied due to the failed federal Labor government's underinvestment in aged care and the NDIS. In the first seven months of this government, emergency department stays longer than 24 hours fell by 5,819 cases compared to the same period under the former government.

One of my constituents, Russell, recently came to my office seeking help. He had waited months for elective surgery in constant pain. Within two weeks of his visit to my office he had had surgery through the Surgery Connect program and is now making a full recovery. This is the human impact of a \$1.75 billion commitment to 30,000 additional surgeries this year alone.

In closing, I also want to thank Minister Powell for investing \$35 million in the Zero Litter to the Bay project by 2030. This will see cleaner waterways around my beautiful peninsula of Redcliffe. I commend the report to the House.



Dr O'SHEA (South Brisbane—ALP) (5.12 pm): Today I rise to address the Appropriation Bill 2025 with respect to the responsibility of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee. I would first like to extend my thanks to the departmental officers from Health, the Ambulance Service, and Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation for their hard work in responding to requests for information and attending the budget estimates process, as well as the incredibly hardworking committee secretariat for its support and assistance during the examination process. Given the limited amount of time provided to debate this report, I will focus on health and ambulance services, as the health budget accounts for over 20 per cent of total proposed government spending for the 2025-26 financial year.

What Queenslanders and my constituents want to see from our state health services is very simple—that when they have an emergency they can be treated quickly at the nearest emergency department, that if they need review by a specialist they will be seen promptly at our outpatient departments, or that if they require elective surgery they will have that surgery in a reasonable timeframe. Sadly, that is not the case at the moment. Currently, patients are waiting hours in ambulances at the doors of emergency departments due to a lack of available beds. We heard during estimates that in the past year there has been an increase of almost 13,000 patients waiting longer than clinically recommended to see a specialist and that the number of patients on the elective surgery waitlist waiting longer than clinically indicated for their surgery has increased by over 55 per cent. That is a lot of people in pain waiting to have their hips and knees operated on.

This government has promised to deliver 2,600 new hospital beds. However, during the estimates hearing the chief executives of the Gold Coast and Wide Bay hospital and health services could not provide any timeframe for the completion of the new Coomera or Bundaberg hospitals, and the only specific reference to new beds I could find in the government's budget highlights for 2025-26 was for 186 public hospital beds at the Springfield Mater Hospital. While these new beds are of course welcome, at this rate it would take 14 years to deliver those 2,600 beds for our state, and Queenslanders cannot wait that long.

The lack of available hospital beds for elective surgery patients has been exacerbated over the past few months with a surge of patients being hospitalised with flu, leading to the cancellation of elective surgery at some hospitals. We heard during estimates that 86 per cent of patients who end up in hospital with influenza have not been vaccinated against the flu. Evidence tabled at the public hearing revealed the shocking statistic that Queensland's flu vaccination rates were lower than the national average for all age groups. Flu vaccinations are widely available and free for all Queenslanders over six months of age, but people have to know about the program to access it. During the public hearing we discovered that only \$675,000 was spent on promoting the flu vaccination program this year while almost three times this amount was spent by the government advertising its plans to build hospital infrastructure and recruit staff.

Appropriate funding of health promotion campaigns is essential for the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, whether it is raising awareness of flu vaccinations or sun safety. Evidence was provided during the estimates hearing of Queenslanders having the highest incidence of melanoma in Australia, so it is vitally important that sun safety messaging continues. However, this government was unable to advise the level of funding allocated in this budget to sun safety social marketing campaigns.

During the public hearing we also discovered that there are now no plans for a new spinal injuries unit at the PA Hospital in my electorate despite there currently being a 30-bed shortage and a further 120 beds required to meet future need for spinal injury patients. Although the government repeatedly promised all commitments in the Women and Girls' Health Strategy would be honoured, it was disclosed at the hearing that publicly funded IVF for women with cancer and other complex medical conditions had not commenced as planned by 1 July this year.



Mr LEE (Hervey Bay—LNP) (5.17 pm): I rise to speak to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee report No. 12 and the Appropriation Bill 2025. At the outset, I commend ministers Tim Nicholls and Andrew Powell for their diligent and courageous leadership and directors-general Dr David Rosengren and Patricia O'Callaghan for their conscientious and competent work during budget estimates.

There is only a short time available to speak, so I primarily speak to our Hervey Bay Hospital rescue plan—a budgetary allocation which is great news for the people of Hervey Bay. It means easier access to healthcare services. Our Hervey Bay Hospital rescue plan is calmly and methodically laying a solid and strategically sustainable healthcare foundation for Queenslanders. Our Hospital Rescue Plan is making a \$96 million capital investment in Hervey Bay's existing and future healthcare needs. We are steadily and methodically expanding the Hervey Bay Hospital so Queenslanders get easier

access to healthcare services. The Hervey Bay Hospital rescue plan will deliver 10 ICU beds, 25 general medical beds, a state-of-the-art helipad and an at-grade car park.

Thirty-one per cent of my community is over the age of 65 and we have the highest rates of chronic disease, as a total proportion of the Fraser Coast population, in Australia. I look forward to collaborating with the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services in developing a fit-for-purpose health service and master plan for the Hervey Bay Hospital.

Our well-considered Hervey Bay Hospital rescue plan is a stark contrast to Labor's failed capacity expansion program. Labor's reckless and botched healthcare plan resulted in some of the highest hospital ramping rates in Australia and record elective surgery waiting and medical specialist waiting lists. Labor's failed Hervey Bay capacity expansion program caused a \$54 million blowout in hospital capital costs, years in delays and broken promises to construct a \$60 million hospital multistorey car park. An independent review into Labor's botched capacity expansion program identified a litany of bungled projects, including Hervey Bay Hospital. The independent report relevantly states—

projects were planned in around six weeks ... it is impossible to follow best health infrastructure planning practices in such a short period of time

...

The chosen procurement strategy was deeply flawed ... leading to significant project cost blowouts.

...

The chosen contracting framework and risk allocations were not appropriate in the then prevailing market conditions ... a major driver of project cost blowouts.

...

Business cases were not completed ahead of Government approvals, with Project Validation Reports being developed in the months following the CEP announcement, and

Project scopes were developed ... in isolation of consultation with local clinicians and health service executives and their local priorities.

On this side of the House, we methodically plan before making announcements. Labor makes recycled announcements and then reactively plans.

I now briefly turn to Labor's statement of reservation. Labor's statement of reservation is replete with shallow and spurious claims—the same old recycled slogans. Labor's reservations statement exemplifies that age-old statement, 'Never let the facts get in the way of a good story.' It is a fact that the member for Miller apologised to the House for spreading mistruths about perinatal mental health beds being cut at Townsville Hospital. It is also a fact that the member for Miller published misleading and erroneous information about the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service. Professor Annette Scott, in correspondence dated 29 July 2025, described the member for Miller's comments as not fully reflective of the facts. So please do not lecture this side of the House on transparency and accountability. Labor furthermore selectively quotes a line of questioning to Mr Calvert about Gold Coast construction completion dates, yet Labor members were more interested in what car Mr Calvert drove. If only Labor members took the time to read the independent review recommendations they might better comprehend the importance of sound and robust construction project governance. Labor has not learnt anything from their botched projects.

In closing, the Hervey Bay Hospital Rescue Plan is a well-considered and sustainable \$96 million investment in the future of our Hervey Bay healthcare system. I commend the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee report and the 2025-26 budget estimates to the House.



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (5.22 pm): In rising to speak on the 2025 Appropriation Bill, it is not on what we learnt or unearthed prior and during the hearings, it is regarding the process. Before I start I want to thank ministers Powell and Nicholls, as well as DGs and all departmental staff who worked extremely hard and, from my experience, answered questions with transparency and respect. I give thanks as well to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker who I found fair in rulings and time allocations, and to the opposition who let us get extra questions in.

Now to the overall estimates process, a crucial one, providing Queenslanders, through their elected representatives, the ability to question what is being funded or not. Between my Health, Environment and Innovation Committee and as a guest of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee there were roughly 24 hours over two days for questions. After time allowed for ministers' opening statements, this equated to four minutes an hour for the crossbench, about 90 minutes in that 24 hours, which was around 20 questions. Given the crossbench represents 26 per cent

of the land mass of Queensland, this is insufficient, hence why the Katter members were not in attendance. To travel vast distances to get one, maybe two, questions in raises the real need for reform. As I said before, this is not a reflection on those involved in the hearings. Everyone endeavoured to work in a flawed system and we appreciated the extra time. However, we cannot rely on the generosity of the chair or the opposition in attendance as the basis for an effective scrutinising system and having, as I experienced, frank responses to my questions. This should not be based on generosity, it should be a standard.

Since 2019 opposition members—the current government now were in opposition then—including the crossbench have sought a review. We saw some positive progress with last year's estimates, with one question on notice for crossbenchers per minister and extended question time for the opposition via a reduction of time for government and Dorothy Dixers. This was a good start, I think roughly 70-30, which is more than the 60-40 that occurred this time. On 28 July 2024 the *Courier-Mail* reported that 'the LNP has pledged to overhaul the estimates process if elected in October, including changing committee structures to ensure all were headed by an independent chair.' This was a monumental moment, one that the crossbench, and no doubt all Queenslanders, were excited about. Instead, with respect to the Premier and his response to my question this morning, we have moved a step backwards. Now we have no questions on notice except to our own committees and less time for opposition and crossbench questions, even though hearing times are longer. Committee chairs replaced with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, which is not the independence sought, did not see a reduction in the number of points of order and points of order on points of order, which lead to even less time for questioning. Again this is no reflection on the Speaker and Deputy Speaker but ultimately what we saw was a replication of the past, regardless of how it is presented.

With the government claiming the completion of the Coaldrake report recommendations, we are left wondering if anyone has actually grasped the central thrust of the report. The report found—


widespread disaffection with the performance of governments and rising expectation that our politicians and their officials be more accountable and transparent in their dealings, and behave with integrity.

and that—

In every case, whether the trivialising of parliamentary committees, lack of independence needed by integrity bodies or lack of clarity about decision making, this can be reversed by a commitment to openness, supported by accountability.

Every single one of us as representatives must fight for this. To do less means we are failing Queenslanders. At a minimum the improvements of last year must be reinstated—and I ask the Premier to please do this—and an independent review of the committee and budget estimates processes drawing on the experiences across Australia and globally to develop modern effective systems.

In closing, I again highlight the incredible amount of work by all, from the ministers through to their staff, Hansard, the Clerk and committee secretariats for what is always a gruelling two weeks. I make special mention of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker because fronting up every day would have been hard. Thank you to all who answered my questions openly as this is appreciated, even if the answer may not be what I had hoped for.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (5.28 pm): This estimates process has exposed that the LNP government is more interested in political theatrics than delivering real outcomes for Queenslanders. What we have witnessed was not the fresh start promised by Premier Crisafulli but a showcase of disarray and broken promises. When it comes to health we know the LNP has a history of cuts and cover-ups. As expected, the Crisafulli government is no different. The most damning revelation from these hearings is how the government has completely misplaced its priorities. The LNP government has spent \$1.67 million in promoting their so-called Hospital Rescue Plan while allocating just \$675,000 for flu vaccination campaigns. That is nearly three times more on self-promotion than on promoting flu vaccinations to people who need them in what experts say is going to be one of the worst Queensland flu seasons.

When it comes to vaccines the LNP says it is a decision between a person and their doctor. Funnily enough, that is not what they say when it comes to women's reproductive health. I have never once heard them say that a women's right to choose is a decision between a woman and her doctor. I say this to the minister: instead of pandering to the right wing anti-vaxxers, let's solve Queensland's hospital crisis and not make it worse. However, we know that this government cares more about votes and pointscore than actually improving the lives of Queenslanders.

Nurses are the backbone of our health system. They look after us when we are most vulnerable. They work long hours, day and night, and in many cases they prioritise the people they care for over their own families. How does this government look after them? How does it repay them? By refusing to

come to the table to talk about the pay increases that they deserve. The government is refusing to come to the table to talk about better working conditions. We need more nurses to meet the growing demand of our health services. By not improving the conditions of those working in our current system, we risk poor retention and we disincentivise those young people who may be thinking of coming into the health sector.

While the demand is rising for additional health services on the north side, unfortunately all we see from this government are false promises and no delivery. We have seen elective surgery waitlists blow out as almost 6,000 patients are waiting longer than clinically recommended. The government also seems to be ignoring all the cries from our local community about the delivering of the Redcliffe Hospital expansion. The complete lack of transparency around hospital capital projects is deeply concerning. In the budget we see health upgrade projects that are vague and without timelines, and that includes the Redcliffe Hospital upgrade. It is a prime example of what the government is not delivering on. People in my electorate have been left in the dark and have no idea about what is happening to the hospital that they use. Without timelines or clear plans, how can the government be accountable for its promises?

The Crisafulli government is back to doing what the LNP is used to: scrapping projects and wasting time and resources while developing a so-called plan that so far is only seen and talked about in advertising. There has been no action on it. Without beds, the wait times will continue to grow and ambulance ramping will only worsen.

Queensland is fortunate to be home to some of the world's most remarkable natural landmarks. We have a responsibility to ensure that those places are protected. I was disappointed but not surprised to see that the LNP does not seem to share this view. This LNP government has demonstrated a complete lack of vision when it comes to our climate targets. During the estimates, when asked about emissions reductions the minister for the environment deflected to the Treasurer and was unable to commit to net zero. The fact is that this government simply does not care, so it was not surprising when at the LNP convention over the weekend LNP members voted to abandon the net zero targets.

This estimates hearing revealed that the government has chosen secrecy over transparency, self-promotion over health services and political gains over accountability. It has no vision for better access to health care for our state, just as it has no vision for the environment or for Queensland's future. Instead of sitting back and taking credit for the former Labor government's work, the government needs to get serious about the issues that are impacting people in our community. Queensland deserves better than this government and what it is offering.



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.32 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the estimates reporting process with respect to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee. At the outset, I extend my thanks to and express my sense of awe at the many departmental staff who I know worked long and hard on the preparation for the estimates process. Many public servants will publicly refer to it as a very gruelling process to prepare for—and rightly so, because it is the interrogation of the budget process and the budget papers. Therefore, it is only proper that both sides of the parliament and, of course, the crossbench put in substantial effort to prepare for the estimates process.

I think it is very appropriate to thank the doctors, nurses, allied health workers, paramedics, ambulance officers, the over 130,000 Queensland Health employees and all the other staff who contribute to carrying out Queensland Health's duties, which includes the pharmacists who do the free flu shots. I will return to that issue later. In this state we are very fortunate to have some of the very best clinicians available not just in the country; I think every member of the House would agree that we have some of the very best health staff in the world. I have been privileged to access that myself in recent years.

Unfortunately, some Queenslanders have been affected by the lack of hospital beds available for elective surgery in recent days, weeks and months. Media reports have widely canvassed that the surge in flu hospitalisations has led to the cancellation of elective surgeries in some hospitals. As the member for South Brisbane outlined during estimates, 86 per cent of patients who ended up in hospital were not vaccinated against the flu. When you consider that flu vaccinations are free and very widely available from a large number of sources, that is really sad and really shocking. Evidence tabled at the public hearing revealed shocking statistics that in Queensland flu vaccination rates are lower than the national average across every single age group, yet, as I said, flu vaccinations are widely available and are free to all Queenslanders aged over six months. However, people have to know about it in order to access it.

During the public hearing, we discovered that only \$675,000 was spent on promoting the flu vaccination program while almost three times that amount was spent by the government advertising its plans to build hospital infrastructure and recruit staff. While that is nice to know about, I think we can all agree that flu vaccinations save lives and it is absolutely imperative that every single Queenslanders knows about this really important program.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Mount Ommaney, I am sorry to interrupt you but the time for debate on the report has expired.

Report adopted.

Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): The question is—

That the report of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee be adopted.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (5.36 pm): As chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee and the member for Nicklin, I am proud to present our committee's report on the 2025-26 budget estimates hearing. We can safely disregard the desperate attempt by Labor members to clutch at anything to divert attention from their decade of decline in their pathetic statement of reservation. This part of the budget reflects the clear priorities of the Crisafulli government: safer communities, a justice system that works and genuine support for Queenslanders who need it most.

We have now been in government for just 10 months. Labor had 10 long years. What a contrast those 10 months have been. In less than a year, the Crisafulli government has delivered real action on community safety, justice and integrity—issues that Labor ignored for a decade. For 10 years under Labor, Queenslanders saw youth crime spiral out of control, police left without the resources they needed, victims pushed to the sidelines and critical services like DNA testing descend into chaos. Now, in just 10 months, this government has turned the page and started to fix the mess.

Labor's weak laws allowed repeat offenders to terrorise our suburbs, including in Nicklin. When I was doorknocking the communities and talking to locals, families told me they felt unsafe in their own homes and on our streets. In just 10 months, this government has invested in the reforms that balance accountability with rehabilitation. We have delivered our Adult Crime, Adult Time stronger consequences and accountability for actions, along with early intervention and rehabilitation programs with purpose. Labor had 10 years to act. Not only did they do nothing to reverse the situation; they denied it existed and made legislation that made the situation worse, watering down laws and burying their heads in the sand. This government has acted and achieved more in 10 short months than Labor did in 10 years. Under Labor, police officers were leaving in droves and frontline officers were stretched thin. In just 10 months, this government has backed our police with over double the net numbers that Labor achieved over their entire term.

One of the other most pleasing things for me to hear was the commitment to the new style of tasers. I know these will be a game changer for police. This new technology will protect both police officers and the public far more effectively. In Nicklin we are delivering a new Nambour Police Beat shopfront in the CBD, something our community has been calling for for over a decade but it fell on the deaf ears of the former Labor government.


For 10 years Labor put offenders first and victims last. Too many families were left feeling abandoned. This government has acted swiftly to change that. The establishment of the Victims Advocate Service means victims will finally have a strong voice in the justice system. That is a reform that Labor never delivered in 10 years, but this government has delivered it in 10 months.

Labor's failures in forensic science and DNA testing were nothing short of disgraceful. Cases collapsed, victims were denied justice and confidence in the system was shattered. In just 10 months this government has committed the necessary funding to boost forensic services, clear backlogs and restore trust.

In relation to emergency services, Labor left our fires, SES volunteers and paramedics under-resourced, and this budget fixes that. We are giving them the facilities, training and tools they need to keep us safe. That is what good governments do—back their frontline workers.

This is the contrast: 10 months of delivery under the Crisafulli government versus a decade of decline and excuses under Labor. Queenslanders voted for change because they were sick of the chaos, the neglect and the soft-on-crime approach of the last government. What they have now is a government with a plan, a government that listens and a government that delivers for Queenslanders.

The Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee recommends that the proposed expenditures be agreed to without amendment, and, of course, I strongly support that recommendation. This budget restores confidence, backs our frontline workers, supports victims and makes Queensland, and Nicklin, a safer place for our families. This is the difference a Crisafulli government makes after just 10 months of delivering for Queenslanders. I commend the report to the House.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.41 pm): Secrecy, cover-ups, arrogance and protection racket—those are not my words; those were the words of the member for Nanango in 2018, who it appears was some pinnacle of integrity in opposition but is not so interested in the estimates process now.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Gaven, I have been advised directly that the term ‘protection racket’ has in the past been deemed unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. This is a government that promised independence, transparency and accountability. Instead, Queenslanders are getting secrecy, political stacking and a re-run of the Newman-era playbook.

Premier Crisafulli promised a public service ‘free from political interference’. He said, ‘I want a public service that is led by someone who is truly independent.’ He was very critical of directors-general who had any former connection with a political party, but it appears there is one rule for the LNP and another rule for everyone else. Take the new director-general of the Department of Justice, Sarah Cruickshank, as an example. Under questioning, she admitted that she was the chief of staff to former Liberal premier Gladys Berejiklian. That is not just political involvement; being the chief of staff to a premier is arguably the most political job in a government. We can add that to her work for Liberal MPs Brendan Nelson and Helen Coonan, and even her political donation to a Liberal candidate. Individuals are entitled to their own political history, but when the Premier tells Queenslanders that he will deliver a truly independent public service and then fills the top jobs with Liberal alumni I think most people would consider that to be a broken promise.

This government also quietly rewrote the rules on judicial appointments. They have expanded the Attorney-General’s discretion over who sits on the panel. They have stripped out groups like the anti-discrimination commissioner and the Women Lawyers Association and added in a cosy carve-out for current or former judicial executives. I wonder why that is. When asked if the Attorney-General now effectively holds a veto over the Bar Association’s and Law Society’s nominations, the director-general could not, or would not, answer the question. I asked the Attorney-General, ‘Why add that veto if you trust the nominations of the Law Society and the Bar Association?’ This is not about independence; it is about control. A system once designed to safeguard integrity is now designed to safeguard the government of the day.

Looming over it all is Mr Sosso. He sat as the director-general of state development on the judicial appointments panel and on the Redistribution Commission—the very body that draws Queensland’s electoral boundaries. This is the same Mr Sosso whom Tony Fitzgerald has described as being susceptible to influence, and now he influences everything that matters—appointments to the courts, commissions and careers. Only in the Crisafulli government could a man once deemed susceptible to influence be given influence over almost every lever of power. This government also loves to quote the Coaldrake report—

Mrs Frecklington: Hear, hear!


Ms SCANLON:—but it has completely ignored Coaldrake’s call for transparency. I hear the Attorney-General saying, ‘Hear, hear!’ I look forward to her implementing those recommendations in full. Queensland is the only state in the country that requires cabinet documents to be released within 30 days, yet what we discovered during the estimates hearings is that fewer than half of the government’s cabinet submissions have actually been released, including important submissions in relation to youth justice reforms. Why? It was confirmed in the estimates hearings that it is the ministers themselves who decide what is marked as secret. When it suits them they keep Queenslanders in the dark, and that is the decision that the Attorney-General has made.

Queenslanders are still waiting to see the Expert Legal Panel’s advice on the government’s Adult Crime, Adult Time laws—advice paid for with taxpayers’ dollars. Despite repeated questioning by the media, by organisations external to government and by the opposition, they are refusing to release it.

We also learned the government has abandoned a Law Reform Commission review into mining lease objections. They have spent \$2.8 million of taxpayers’ money and have nothing to show for it. We

asked about the legal costs of Crown Law fighting the pause on hormone therapies for children in Queensland health facilities, and, again, the Attorney-General said she did not know. I hope she can answer today.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.47 pm): I am happy to follow the shadow attorney-general because, while she did ask questions of my director-general, at least she did not have to ask her if she had been the director-general before like she did in the housing estimates hearings. I am still trying to work that one out.

I begin by extending my sincere gratitude to the dedicated public servants in my department and across government for their contributions to the estimates process for the Department of Justice. Unlike the shadow attorney-general, I respect public servants. I am not going to stand in this House and listen to the shadow attorney-general attacking public servants. They did it in government and they are now doing it in opposition, and I say, 'Shame!' They never learn.

Mr Janetzki: That's what Coaldrake said.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the honourable Treasurer. That is exactly what Coaldrake talked about: the disrespect of public servants and the bullying that went on when they were in government. They will never learn, and that is why they are in opposition.

What a great budget this is. After a decade of decline, the Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for. It is no wonder the committee had just one recommendation: that the proposed expenditure be agreed to by this House without amendment. I have to say I was rather baffled by the lengthy statement of reservation. I will say it was developed by the opposition, but I am not sure who did it. I am pretty sure it was Chat, but maybe it was a couple of junior burger, uni student, young lawyer mobs who did it. It reflected many of the worst hallmarks of Labor's time in government over the past decade. Of course, they produced a 36-page glossy brochure that was more about political spin than public spending. As usual, Labor is all spin and no substance—anything for a headline but zero care about the bottom line.

Making matters worse, the statement of reservation was riddled with underhanded attacks on independent public servants and the manner in which they contribute so ably to our state. I will say it again: this is what Coaldrake talked about; the bullying culture of the former Labor government was unacceptable. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government will continue to respect our public servants.

Those opposite frequently like to speak about merit-based recruitment processes, but I guess both the shadow minister for integrity and the shadow attorney-general have forgotten about the events of 19 February this year, when a certain CCC report was tabled in the House. It outlined the so-called merit-based processes used by the former government. Apparently, their processes included Jackie Trad yelling down the phone at then premier Palaszczuk, telling her she was going to 'pick up the pen and sign the document'. CCC reports that were kept hidden for several years by former ministers opposite, at a cost to the taxpayer of nearly \$400,000. The integrity record of those opposite is beyond a joke, so much so that then premier Palaszczuk had to commission the report that we keep talking about—that is, the Coaldrake review.

The Crisafulli budget is delivering a fresh start. When I was talking about increases in funding for Blue Card Services, the DFV courts or upgrades to our courthouses across the state, what did I get from those opposite? They rolled their eyes and said, 'Enough already about court infrastructure.' Guess what? After a decade of decline, we are delivering upgrades to our courthouses and, importantly, upgrades for our hardworking public servants who work in them. Unlike the former Labor government, when I head out to our court services and meet with the hardworking people who work in those courts—whether it is at Cloncurry, Thursday Island or wherever—they often say that they have not seen an attorney-general before. Why does that not surprise me? The former Labor government only governed for themselves. We saw that in this committee. I thank the committee for agreeing to pass this appropriation unopposed.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.52 pm): I rise to speak in relation to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's estimates hearing for 2025. The estimates process is one of parliament's key mechanisms for examining government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. It is designed to hold the government to account for how it spends public funds, to scrutinise whether

these funds are being used effectively and to ensure that Queenslanders are receiving the services and the protections they deserve.

By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill, the committee assists the parliament in its fundamental role of scrutinising the government's budgetary priorities and their delivery. This year the appropriations examined by the committee covered the portfolio areas of three key ministers—the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services, and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

The following departments and agencies fell under the scope of our examination: Queensland Police Service, Queensland Corrective Services, Department of Justice, Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Ombudsman and Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management. The hearing took place on 5 August, with nine hours of examination allocated between 9 am and 8 pm. At the conclusion of the process, the committee recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for our areas of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.


However, that outcome tells only part of the story. One of the greatest concerns for the opposition throughout this process was simply getting clear answers to straightforward questions. Too often ministers failed to respond directly, preferring to obfuscate, misdirect and bury answers under longwinded monologues that never actually addressed the issue at hand. A prime example came when the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services was asked whether a young person could be locked in their cell for up to 24 hours. She refused to answer. The director-general was then asked the same question and he responded—

... they are recorded in a system: up to two hours, between two and 12 hours, and then 12 hours or more ... I cannot think when a young person, even in natural disasters, has spent more than 24 hours in a cell.

The question was not whether anyone had been locked up for more than 24 hours; it was whether they could be locked up for 24 hours. The distinction matters, and the refusal to give a straight answer speaks volumes.

During estimates we witnessed a textbook display of diversion and deflection from the member for Currumbin. When asked by the member for Bulimba for clarity on night mode and whether youth offenders are locked in their cells, Minister Gerber said that night mode was a local name used at the Cleveland Youth Detection Centre and it is correctly called separations. She then launched into a lengthy explanation of the terminology before wandering off into unrelated territory. When pressed for a simple yes-or-no answer on whether youth offenders can be locked in their cells for up to 24 hours, Minister Gerber claimed it was not a yes-or-no question. Eventually, the director-general attempted to answer but still failed to give a definitive response.

Follow-up questions on whether these separations occurred due to staff shortages were also sidestepped and replaced with political attacks on past Labor governments. All the while, Minister Gerber was supported by interjections from her LNP colleagues. The Australian Workers' Union Queensland branch secretary has stated that there have been over 300 staff shortage incidences at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre since the start of 2025.

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.57 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Krause, with your indulgence and the indulgence of the House, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the tragedy unfolding in Victoria this afternoon. We know that two police officers have been executed in the line of duty and one other has been injured. I understand that the police are still frantically trying to apprehend the offender, who has some hostages in his custody.

Earlier this afternoon I spoke to the Victorian Minister for Police, Mr Anthony Carbines, and on behalf of the government, the parliament, the Queensland Police Service and all Queenslanders offered any support they may need and told him that our hearts are with them at this time. I know that the Victoria Police are a capable organisation and have resources at their disposal. I told him and all Victorians that our hearts and thoughts and prayers are with them and that we are happy to provide any support should they need it. It is eerily similar to the events at Wieambilla and we spoke about that. It is bringing back some memories for police and Queenslanders as well. Thank you for your indulgence.

I turn now to the budget estimates. It was very important for me, as a new minister—even though, as I pointed out on the day, I did not get asked any questions during the police component—to spend a lot of time with the acting commissioner and the senior police executive, our emergency services and Marine Rescue Queensland to interrogate every line item in the budget to ensure we were ready for


this important process. I acknowledge members of the committee from both sides of the House, particularly the committee chair, the member for Nicklin, who is a former police officer and someone with whom I work very closely. I work very closely with him and the other members of the committee—particularly the members for Capalaba and Thuringowa. As the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I work very closely with that committee in terms of their important role.

That is why I was a bit surprised by the question, and the No. 1 point in their statement of reservation was that those opposite had a concern about me working closely with the chair of that committee and with committee members, but I will continue to do that. I think that is one of the reasons, after a decade of decline, with the bills we have put forward and that the committee has interrogated, and with the budget, that we are starting to see 10 months of delivery, particularly around community safety and crime. I will continue to work with the chair and that committee.

A few other things were raised in the statement of reservation. We now know that the former government defunded the police. We are doing everything we can to properly fund our police to make sure they have the resources they need to keep themselves, their colleagues and the community safe. It was interesting that the opposition police spokesman asked a question about the EB negotiations that are unfolding at the moment. I want to tell the House that we will be doing things differently this time—that is, we will be funding in full those EB agreements when they are reached. The former government, as we now know, did not do that.

With the last two EB agreements, when the QPS and the union reached a suitable agreement for the Queensland police, those opposite did not fund it. The police had to find that money from existing resources. That is maybe one reason our police have been using obsolete roadside breath-testing devices. They are so obsolete that, when the Western Australian police were getting rid of theirs because the provider does not service them or provide parts anymore, Queensland police were basically getting them out of the rubbish from Western Australia and using parts to keep theirs going.

It is maybe why they have been using outdated tasers. The Queensland police have been given a record \$4 billion budget—\$380 million more than the last budget. One of the things I talk about a lot in this chamber is the provision of \$147.9 million for life-saving equipment to the police—top of the range tasers, tactical first aid kits for every police officer, new alcometers, tyre deflation devices, body worn cameras and vests. I am proud to do that because on this side we appreciate the sacrifices our police make and the risks they take. As we have seen unfolding in Victoria again today, police officers every day put their safety behind that of innocent people who, more often than not, they do not know. We will continue to essentially re-fund the police after a decade of those opposite defunding the police, and I am proud to do it.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (6.02 pm): I rise to speak to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's report. I want to speak predominately to the integrity aspect of the committee. The Queensland Integrity Commissioner and her staff play a critical role in supporting integrity in the government. The role of the Integrity Commissioner is enshrined in law and their functions are clear: to provide impartial advice to designated persons and to maintain the lobbying register. However, the Attorney-General's charter letter, issued to her by the Premier, states that she is to 'work closely with the Integrity Commissioner to set standards and procedures for respectful conduct between members of parliament, the executive government and the Public Service'—activities that, according to the governing legislation, are not actually part of the Integrity Commissioner's role.

The commissioner confirmed in estimates that she had to begin 'preliminary work' on that 'particular responsibility' to ascertain 'what that may look like'. It reveals that the LNP government's understanding of the commissioner's role is flawed, raising questions as to why it was referenced in the Minister for Integrity's charter letter to start with. Add to that the unwillingness of ministers to release integrity advice under the guise of confidentiality, it becomes very clear that this LNP government either does not understand integrity, does not respect integrity or, worse, deliberately avoids practising integrity. When questioned on whether advice provided to a member of parliament can be released, the Integrity Commissioner was very clear in her response, stating that the secrecy provisions apply to the commissioner and her staff, not to the designated person—fundamentally making it clear that any advice provided to a member of parliament can be released to the public by that member.

Personal relationships are a matter for individuals, but of course when those personal relationships are pre-existing or emerge in the context of a ministerial cabinet they immediately require integrity advice. They require integrity advice because any perceived or actual conflicts must be managed with a formal conflict management plan so that the Queensland public can have faith and trust that the decisions being made by the government are not biased in any way. That sounds pretty

simple. It is why the ministerial code of conduct and the ministerial handbook exists, and it is why the test of public interest or public perception is applied to such matters—something the Integrity Commissioner confirmed at estimates.

When it comes to the most recent personal relationship in the LNP government's cabinet, Queenslanders are still in the dark about when advice was sought and what conflict management plans were put in place. Why is this LNP government refusing to disclose this information to the Queensland people? There was certainly no reason provided by the Integrity Commissioner during estimates for the ministers to withhold the advice they were given. If the LNP and the Premier are serious about integrity, they would immediately release the Integrity Commissioner's advice and lay to rest any concerns regarding whether two of their ministers have adhered to their obligations. It is not a hard thing to do.

The shadow of integrity issues is not reserved to one matter when it comes to this LNP government. There is a deeply troubling pattern that has defined the Crisafulli LNP government from day one. We had the government's controversial appointment of Mr Sosso to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission—an appointment that raised concerns from Mr Tony Fitzgerald, who in a rare public statement said, 'Queensland might be reverting to the bad old days of biased electoral boundaries—the notorious Queensland gerrymander,' yet the LNP pushed ahead, putting at risk public faith in the independence of our institutions.

Then we had the case of Mr Julian Simmonds, parachuted into a plum government role without the transparency Queenslanders deserve in such appointments. It is a 'jobs for mates' culture that lacks even the slightest veil of integrity. What about the pattern of board appointments? Time and again we have seen LNP linked figures quietly slotted into powerful boards. These are positions that shape decisions on billions of dollars of public money, yet they are treated as rewards in the LNP's political gift shop.

Most recently, we saw the absolute debacle of the Chief Health Officer appointment—announced with great fanfare, only to be rescinded days later under a cloud of questions. Queenslanders were left wondering what went wrong. Who signed off? Was due diligence even done? Once again, we have seen integrity questioned. Where is the integrity minister on this matter?

This is not a government of integrity; this is a government of cover-ups, conflicts and chaos; a government that lurches from one integrity scandal to the next; a government that confuses the role of our independent watchdogs, like the Integrity Commissioner, that hands out appointments to friends and allies, that botches critical appointments in our health system and that cannot even be transparent about perceived conflicts in its own cabinet. Queenslanders deserve better. They deserve a government that treats integrity not as an inconvenience but as the bedrock of public trust. They deserve transparency, accountability and honesty. The opposition will continue to hold this government to account.



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.27 pm): The Crisafulli government's first budget has laid the foundation for the fresh start we promised, restoring safety where you live, putting victims first and backing the frontline officers Labor left behind. In my portfolio, we have delivered the largest youth justice and victim support budget in Queensland's history—\$770.9 million dedicated to putting victims first, restoring consequences for action and breaking the cycle of crime in this state.

Labor completely neglected victims of crime while they were in government and they continued this poor form during estimates. Both the member for Bulimba and the member for Springwood, who was the real member for the Greens during estimates, tried to silence me when I was explaining how the Crisafulli government is supporting victims of Labor's DNA failures. While I was trying to explain how the Crisafulli government is rolling out support, those Labor members claimed it was not relevant to the victim support portfolio. Support for victims of Labor's DNA debacle is outside the victim support portfolio! That tells us everything we need to know about how this Labor government treats victims of crime.

Their statement of reservation also sought to rewrite history when it comes to separations in our detention centres with categorically false statements. Since January 2025, under the Crisafulli government, staff shortage separations have fallen 32 per cent compared to the same period under Labor. At Cleveland alone they are down 36 per cent. Mr Deputy Speaker, 76 per cent of separations lasted less than two hours and only eight per cent exceeded 12 hours under the Crisafulli government. That is in complete contrast to the mistruths those opposite are trying to peddle when it comes to separations.

Under our government, most of the separations are risk-based because we have delivered our Detention with a Purpose Plan. It prioritises staff safety in our detention centres. It prioritises and ensures consequences for actions for bad behaviour so that, when youth offenders in our detention centres assault our detention staff or when they are a risk to safety at our detention centres, our staff in those detention centres are able to impose risk-based separations in order to secure that detention facility and ensure staff safety is prioritised. We will not tolerate abusive behaviour towards staff in our detention centres. That is what our Detention with a Purpose Plan delivers.

We are also strengthening the workforce. Already we have welcomed 305 new recruits across our youth detention centres and—member for Bulimba, wait for this—that is 59 more staff than in 2023-24 under Labor. The member for Bulimba did not like it. She thought she had a ‘gotcha’ moment with the workforce plan, which is up on the internet and delivered by the Crisafulli government. We are delivering the staff needed to secure our detention centres, but it will take time to redress the decade of decline under Labor. In just 10 months we have delivered 59 more staff than Labor was able to deliver in the last financial year.

Labor also continued to try to peddle their scare campaign, twisting words in contracts to spin their web of falsities. The live-in component of Regional Reset is 24/7 and it is compulsory. Our tender documents simply allow providers flexibility, meaning Regional Reset facilities can be used for other purposes, like school camps, on the days or weeks the live-in component of the Regional Reset program is not scheduled.

Speaking of unbridled, unfounded fear campaigns, let’s move to corrective services. Once again they tried to run another fear campaign around the future of our prisons. They simply cannot accept that our Crisafulli government has backed our corrective services officers and that our wonderful corrective services officers are there running our prisons and it is funded into the forwards. They simply cannot accept it, and they want to continue to run a scare campaign.

In yet another cracker, the shadow minister for corrective services kept a straight face when he asked the commissioner about investment to meet capacity demands in our prison system. The gall! I truly do not know how he kept a straight face when under the Labor government our prisons were operating at 150 per cent capacity. They were over capacity, risking triple-ups, and he kept a straight face while asking about capacity in our prisons.

The Crisafulli government has delivered more for Queenslanders in just 10 months than the decade of decline under Labor.



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (6.12 pm): If ever the protection racket, fronted by the member for Moggill—mustn’t he have been exhausted by the end of the estimates period, with all of those ministers he had to look after—

Mr DILLON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I have three members on their feet with points of order. I will take the first one, from the member for Gregory.

Mr DILLON: I do believe the member may have used a phrase that has been deemed unparliamentary and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I had very direct advice previously that that was an unparliamentary term, and I ask you to withdraw and continue.

Ms FARMER: I withdraw. We know that this minister goes off her tree. We know that they have started to worry every time she is questioned in public, so there were points of order everywhere from the member for Moggill and the member for Nicklin. The minister was clearly told to ‘waffle as much as you can, speak slowly, don’t go off your tree’. That is all very well; however, it does not take away from the fact that this minister is out of her depth, and this hearing showed it.

Her responses showed the complete lack of modelling of their Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. They said they were locking up more kids with those laws and those young people were going to be there for longer periods. It was confirmed at the hearing that they have done nothing to prepare for this. They talked about all of the plans for facilities that Labor put in place including: the Woodford Youth Detention Centre, which is currently under construction; the Caboolture watch house; the Wacol Youth Remand Centre; and the Cairns YDC, which the minister in her response to questions on notice continues to say she is consulting on, including making up people who have been consulted—people like Cairns city councillors, who then say they have not been consulted. She failed through the estimates process to say whom she has spoken to about Cairns and what exactly she is consulting on.

We asked what modelling she has done to make sure there are both the facilities and the staff to deal with all of these extra young people. Despite her Corrective Services Commissioner, in consideration of his portfolio, talking about the detailed modelling they always do to make sure they can cater for demand in correctional facilities, the minister insists it is not needed in youth justice.

We asked about the CYDC, which is at crisis point. We referenced reports from earlier in the year that judges are letting out young offenders early from there because of the impact of staff shortages and the resulting poor conditions. After persistent questioning, which they really wanted to avoid giving an answer to, they confirmed to the committee that between 1 January and 4 August this year there were only three days when one or more units at CYDC was not in separation mode.

In December last year the minister said that she was going to fix 'it'—the crisis. She was going to do a workforce plan, yet nine months later, when I asked her where that plan was, she had no idea and waffled until the director-general put her out of her misery and stuck something in front of her that she was able to say was a workforce plan. A whistleblower gave us a copy of that plan afterwards, and in fact it is not a plan for YDCs at all; it is one of those internal plans departments do for the whole department that really has nothing specific in it about YDCs or the crisis at Cleveland. Despite another porky from the minister about whom she has consulted with, the union says that not only were they not consulted but they had never heard of it.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, I do not think I need to take your point of order because I was about to ask the member for Bulimba to please withdraw the unparliamentary language she just used.

Ms FARMER: I withdraw. What else did we hear or not hear from this minister? With regard to their so-called rolled gold early intervention, we found out through estimates that, of the \$97.5 million allocated in the last financial year to rolled gold early intervention, only \$10 million has been spent, despite the minister telling this parliament in December last year in answer to a question on notice that that plan was well underway.


Then we have the youth justice and crime prevention schools that are in her budget, but she has no legislative authority to oversee them and no apparent plans to make this possible. Neither she nor the education minister seemed across that problem.

The Expert Legal Panel is referenced on the official DPC website as being legally required to produce an annual report, but the minister refuses to allow that. Those members have been paid \$34,000 for eight meetings, but there seems to be no need for taxpayers to see value for money and there are definitely some LNP mates on that panel.

Then we have the data issue. This minister already had to follow the Premier's disastrous declaration earlier in the estimates period about how he was going to measure victim data, leaving out anyone—including witches' hats—covered by the term 'other theft'. I did not even bother to ask the minister about why she would not count victims of DVO breaches; I just asked the director-general, who did not really answer. These are the almost 62,000 victims of DV breaches that were counted last year and over 35,000 up to August of this year. For all of the LNP's talk about caring for victims, they do not want to count anyone if it would make their numbers look bad.

Youth crime and victim support are the big issues. These are the issues this government went to the election on and promised Queenslanders they were going to deal with. This minister is not up to dealing with them at all, and this hearing showed that.

Before I finish, I thank all of those public servants—not only the people who work in this House but also the people who work for the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support for the enormous amount of time they put into preparing. We deeply respect them and thank them for all of their efforts.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (6.18 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Appropriation Bill 2025. This bill was introduced by the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership and provides for the funding of costs related to delivering departmental services and other administrative items for the 2025-26 financial year. These appropriations are created in consultation with the departments and public servants that keep Queensland moving.

The Crisafulli government has said from the very beginning that we will respect and trust our public servants, and we will continue to do so. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the parliamentary committee staff for all the support they have provided to each of the committees throughout this term so far. As a member of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I

am delighted to speak on the broad range of funding that the Crisafulli government has allocated to restore safety where we live.


Queenslanders are aware of what drove me to stand in this House. They recognised that youth crime had reached a crisis point, while the former Labor government defended their poor record after a decade of decline. The LNP government is already delivering for Queenslanders with strong new laws and early intervention programs to curb the youth crime crisis. Youth justice remains a top priority for the Crisafulli government. Over the next five years we will invest \$345 million towards rehabilitation programs to break the cycle of reoffending and reintegrate the youths back into their communities. Over the same period, \$215 million will be provided towards funding community-led early intervention initiatives. This is welcome news for my community and every community across Australia, I am sure. We are standing with victims every step of the way and putting their rights ahead of the offenders, as it always should have been.

Appropriations for the justice, integrity and community safety portfolio account for approximately 8.62 per cent of the budget, which totals \$105.4 billion. This expenditure will ensure that victims are put first and that safety is restored to our communities. For the Department of Justice, this will include \$54.4 million over five years and \$2.2 million per annum to further resource the justice system. This funding will also support the implementation of Adult Crime, Adult Time and the Making Queensland Safer Laws. There will be \$11.6 million allotted over four years to provide enhanced victim support through the Director of Public Prosecutions' Victim Liaison Service. During estimates the Attorney-General detailed that the former Labor government left the budget in such dire straits that 18 full-time employees were set to lose their jobs in the Victim Liaison Service had the Crisafulli government not been elected.

In the past, I have spoken on victims being left to fall through the cracks of the system, and that is why I am glad that this government is committed to putting victims first and that over the next five years we are contributing \$458 million to ensure that victims of crime receive the assistance and advocacy they need. This is meaningful change. This will include: \$395 million over two years to enhance support under the Victims of Crime Assistance Act; \$50 million over five years to establish a Victims Advocate Service; \$12.9 million over four years to expand the Victims of Crime Community Response pilot program; and \$2.6 million over four years to support the establishment of a youth justice victims register.

Queenslanders placed their trust in us because they know youth crime is not a media beat-up. That is why we are properly resourcing our police officers and bolstering their numbers with new recruits—with 350 in our first nine months. That is more than double what those opposite were able to achieve in their last four years in government. We are not stopping there; this government is hard at work to ensure we retain our officer numbers. We are delivering better support for our Police Service, with \$226.1 million over five years, and \$37.6 million to implement the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We are also committing \$147.9 million over five years to provide our frontline police with essential equipment they need to keep Queenslanders safe. Our police will also be better resourced to respond to domestic violence, with \$37 million allotted over the next four years.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (6.23 pm): What Queenslanders saw in this year's budget estimates was not accountability, it was not transparency and it certainly was not the fresh start the Crisafulli LNP promised to Queenslanders. What we saw was protection of their ministers. Even the *Courier-Mail* called it out: LNP insiders admitted that the Leader of the House was running a 'heavy protection cordon' around ministers. We saw it for ourselves. Every time the questions got uncomfortable, there was the Leader of the House interjecting, directing the chair and chewing up valuable time. This was not scrutiny; it was a cover-up. It was a government hiding behind points of order, shielding its ministers and doing everything it could to avoid the truth.

Nowhere was that clearer than during the scrutiny of the police portfolio. Right at the start of questioning, the Acting Police Commissioner confirmed something extraordinary: that the member for Nicklin—an LNP MP, a former police officer and chair of the justice committee—was attending practice estimates with the minister and the commissioner. Let's be clear: these are supposed to be closed door sessions. They are for ministers and senior departmental officials—not for backbenchers and not for politicians trying to manage the optics. In those meetings, sensitive topics are on the table—operational matters, intelligence, counterterrorism, ethical standards—yet an LNP MP was right there in the room taking part.

Then in the hearing itself that same MP jumped with points of order to shut down questions about what he had been doing. He tried to block Labor from exposing the truth. When that failed, the acting commissioner confirmed that, yes, the member for Nicklin was present and probably at multiple sessions. This goes to the very heart of integrity in Queensland. The line between police and politics must be crystal clear, and the LNP have blurred that completely. That is not oversight; that is interference. What happened when we pushed on it? The government shut it down and handed the next question to the member for Nicklin himself and, like clockwork, the commissioner delivered a pre-prepared answer on the Premier's travel, full of cherrypicked stats to cover the government's tracks. This is not a coincidence; it is coordination and protection of the minister in plain sight of everyone at estimates.

While the LNP played games with the process, what did we learn about substance? We learnt that this government has delivered the lowest base rate police pay rise in the nation. Documents tabled by the opposition show it clearly: in New South Wales, a minimum of 19 per cent increases; in Victoria, up to 20 per cent; and in South Australia, eight per cent over two years, plus salary increases. What do we have here in Queensland? We have a deal that leaves our officers at the bottom, personally negotiated by the Premier and the minister—an insult to the frontline workers. We listened to the police minister tonight claiming that as part of the negotiations they are funding new tasers, breathalysers and other operational equipment. That is not what an EBA is about; it is about the wages and conditions of the workforce, including our amazing police.

Attrition numbers in police in Queensland are exploding. Last year alone, 709 officers left the Queensland Police Service, and projections show that more than 800 could walk away by 2029.


Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Members on my right and member for Ferny Grove!

Mr BUTCHER: This government's so-called pipeline of 1,600 new recruits is just spin. There is no additional funding beyond what Labor had already committed. There is no substance and no plan.

The real insult to Queenslanders came when we followed the money and discovered just how far the Premier is willing to go for his own comfort. More than half a million dollars was spent in jet flights, with a single day costing over \$50,000. This is all while ministers try to downplay crime stats and pretend things are under control here in Queensland. This is a Premier flying high while Queenslanders are left behind with fewer police, rising crime and services that are under pressure.


I turn to the Corrective Services space, and I was glad to hear the minister finally fire up tonight. That is what I was expecting during estimates, but she failed to deliver. She dodged questions and she weaved questions. She gave every answer but the ones that Queenslanders deserve. She is a minister who is incapable of doing her job.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (6.28 pm): I rise today to speak on the Appropriation Bill committee estimates for the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. I do so with a sense of both opportunity and frustration. When I prepared for the estimates hearing, I was genuinely excited. I anticipated robust, engaging and community focused discussion—a chance to dive deep into the priorities and needs of Queenslanders. Our government, after just 10 months in office, is committed to being accountable, transparent and responsive to every Queenslanders.

We came ready to listen and to deliver, but what we encountered was nothing short of lacklustre. The Labor opposition's performance during these hearings was, frankly, disappointing. After a decade of decline and letting Queenslanders down—with 10 years of missed opportunities, stagnant progress and unfulfilled promises—their approach to these hearings showed no energy, no vision and no accountability. It was a stark reminder of why Queenslanders turned away from them. After 10 years of decline by the Labor government, the LNP Crisafulli government has had 10 months of delivery.

The former Labor government continued to tell my community that we did not have a crime problem. They hid from the realities of the siege of crime my community were enduring, so it was no surprise that I heard questions about safety cones and flights made to cover regional Queensland—not to deliver birthday cakes or with two jets flying almost side by side, but to listen and support regional Queenslanders.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Ms MARR:** I am certain that these are not the questions that Queenslanders wanted to hear from Labor. My community tell me they are happy to have a Premier who does not just talk about regional Queensland but one who visits them and one who delivers for North Queensland. I am certain that the community would have expected so much more from the opposition, but then again, after 10 years of


inaction, maybe not. Let's face it, this is why Queenslanders in my community voted for a fresh start for Queensland.

Let me reflect on what my community would like to have heard. Youth Justice has an investment of \$35 million towards rehabilitation programs and an additional \$215 million to deliver early intervention, community-led initiatives with a focus on reducing crime. For the Queensland Police Service there is \$226 million to implement Making Queensland Safer Laws, \$52.5 million to reduce the DNA backlog and \$25 million for delivery of an electronic monitoring pilot of high-risk domestic and family violence offenders. I have touched on only a few examples. There are countless more, far beyond what I can address in this brief speech, yet these are the priorities our community would like to hear—what matters to them—not the agenda of a defeated Labor government who want to hide from their record.

In reading the Labor government's statement of reservation, I was again not surprised by the lacklustre response, once again ignoring the real issues. In the statement of reservation they continue to make the statement, and again today in parliament, that the LNP have handed in their homework. What nonsense! To the members over there, this is a classic case of, 'Teacher, the dog ate my homework,' because Labor did not deliver.

We have been working tirelessly to address the challenges left behind, to rebuild trust and to drive meaningful outcomes for our communities. We will continue to reflect our commitment to responsible governance and real progress for Queenslanders. While Labor lingers in the past, we are focused on the future—a future where accountability and action define us. We will listen to our community, we will respect their money, we will put victims first and we will continue to be tough on crime.

Before I conclude, I want to express my gratitude to the parliamentary staff for their tireless dedication, professionalism and hard work throughout this process. Their commitment ensures our democracy thrives, and I deeply appreciate their efforts. On that note, I welcome a continued fresh start for Queensland.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (7.33 pm): I rise tonight to make a contribution in relation to the emergency services deliberations of the committee through the estimates process. We had extraordinary scenes where it became very apparent very quickly that the minister responsible, the Minister for Emergency Services, simply was not doing work within his own portfolio. So much for a fresh start. There were numerous instances through the estimates process where the minister was, in fact, lost and confused around his responsibilities, his undertakings and his actions. It was highlighted in a couple of different sections, specifically when we talked about the EVAF forum. It was really clear that the minister had no idea what the EVAF forum even was, and after a considerable line of questioning we found out that he was briefed on it upon becoming the minister but had not in fact held any meetings at all. He determined that it would meet annually which, essentially, in effect, means that this really important forum for emergency volunteers has not convened whatsoever.

The acting commissioner really belled the cat when he said in response to the question, 'The minister has indicated it has only been meeting once a year.' Then when I asked, 'Is it correct to say that EVAF prior to August 2024 met quarterly?', the acting commissioner said that EVAF on occasion had met quarterly. I call on the minister to table the meeting dates of EVAF because it absolutely meets quarterly. The commissioner belled the cat in that response.

It became even clearer that the acting commissioner could not tell us who the chair of EVAF even was. Over two minutes passed from the initial asking of that question and no-one had handed them a Post-It note with the name on it at all. It was just incomprehensible. It was like we were watching some kind of skit. Then when the acting commissioner read out the name on the Post-It note, he needed several attempts to pronounce it correctly and got it wrong.

We saw extraordinary scenes when it came to consideration for the really important work and the important involvement of the emergency services volunteers through our community. It is incomprehensible that after so many natural disasters this forum has not indeed been convened a single time under this emergency services minister. In fact, he even tried to—


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Pine Rivers, I have to ask you to take your seat. The time for debate on the report has expired.

Report adopted.

Primary Industries and Resources Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): The question is—

That the report of the Primary Industries and Resources Committee be adopted.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (7.36 pm): At the outset, I want to remind the chamber of one simple fact: this budget delivers. It delivers record funding, targeted investments and measurable outcomes for Queensland's farmers, fishers, foresters and miners and regional communities. Labor, unable to mount a coherent argument against it, has instead slapped together a statement of reservation that is long on rhetoric and short on substance.

Labor claims there is insufficient transparency in allocations. Every dollar appropriated is published in the budget papers and examined through estimates, and the opposition had every opportunity during estimates to ask their questions. The answers were provided: they were clear and detailed and are now on the record. For Labor to now suggest that the process lacks accountability is nothing more than political theatre, designed to undermine confidence and to continue their scare campaigns.

Labor's statement of reservation criticises the timeline for the recruiting of 100 new biosecurity officers, but they conveniently ignore that recruitment is already underway, with regional roles filled and training programs in place. The truth is that these are positions Labor never funded, never prioritised and never delivered while they were in government. It is this government that has invested to protect our state from invasive pests and diseases.

Labor warns of delays in implementing independent onboard monitoring and fisheries regulation, but, again, the facts tell a different story. This government has engaged industry stakeholders, is undertaking consultation and is implementing reforms in a practical and workable manner, based on science. Contrast that with Labor's record of regulatory and policy chaos—confusing everyone, alienating industry and leaving stakeholders uncertain. The government's reforms are steady and evidence-based. I thank the minister for the response to my question on saving the Spanish mackerel fisheries. Many of us love Spanish mackerel.


Labor questions whether Queensland can reach its \$30 billion primary industries output target by 2030. We need to be clear: under this government, we are already on track and forecast to exceed \$24 billion in 2025, despite many challenges. The opposition's views are nothing new. They doubt, they criticise and they undermine, but they never offer solutions. When in power, they presided over stagnation in the very industry they now claim to champion. Labor raises concerns about balancing agricultural land with other uses, yet it is this government that has introduced statutory protections, engaged with stakeholders and prioritised long-term sustainability. Labor's approach is to talk about balance but deliver none, lurching between green groups and industry without a clear strategy.

The statement of reservation is not a serious reflection of the estimates process, a process that needed reforming. It is a political attempt to rewrite history and an attempt to deflect from their failures over the last 10 years. Labor seeks to cast doubt and to scare Queenslanders when confidence is needed and to score cheap political points. Queensland's farmers, fishers, foresters, miners and regional industries deserve more than whining from an opposition that time and again failed to deliver when they were given the chance. This budget is a responsible, forward-planning, forward-thinking plan that strengthens our industries, protects our biosecurity and secures jobs for Queenslanders into the future. Labor's statement of reservation should be recognised for what it is—empty words and unsupported claims. More importantly, we have good news and a good story to tell. The appropriation talks about a clear investment in Queensland's future that prioritises primary industries, regional economies, the resource sector and manufacturing.

The Department of Primary Industries has been allocated \$817.2 million, a very significant investment that lays the foundation for prosperity and resilience in our state's agricultural sector. This level of funding reflects our government's commitment to the long-term strength of the sector. There is \$88 million over four years for the Shark Control Program to ensure community safety across our iconic Queensland coastlines. Manufacturing is supercharged with \$80 million over three years to power the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program. In resources and exploration, the budget includes \$8.5 million to support the Queensland Resources Common User Facility, along with \$5.1 million to accelerate minerals exploration and up-to-date geoscience data. Nature conservation gets nearly \$120 million over four years to boost natural resource management and biodiversity programs—investments that underline our commitment to sustainable practices.

I commend the rigorous work of the Primary Industries and Resources Committee and the secretariat for all the work they did in the hearings. Upon public scrutiny, the Appropriation Bill stands as a testament to a responsible approach to accountable governance. It is truly a fresh start for

Queensland. More importantly, I want to quickly address the issues that have been raised. The questioning and criticism of points of order is clear. If these guys and girls put some effort into questions that really challenged the government on issues you would not need a point of order. We will always stand up for the processes of Queensland parliament. It needs to be reflective and it needs to be concise. The questions that were asked were completely out of line. If I had my chance over again I would call more points of order because we let them get away with a lot more than we should. We had 10 years of decline; we have had 10 months of delivery—that is what Queenslanders deserve.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.41 pm): It is interesting that he said if he had his choice he would call a point of order on every question—we virtually saw that. I notice that the Leader of House is leaving. It is just as well that he is leaving because I am going to do a character assessment on some of the things that he did. I had done half a sentence of my second question and the member for Burnett immediately made a point of order which was, of course, quickly dismissed because his point of order was completely out of order.

The LNP, at the direction of Premier Crisafulli, attempted to block the opposition at estimates. But I am here to tell you that despite less time and frivolous points of order that did not stop us revealing that in respect of the mining and resource sector, like all of the other sectors that we found—we are going to get to agriculture—the LNP said one thing before the election and then after it they made cuts and broke promises. We heard this not only in Treasury, health and education but also in agriculture. When it came to examining the areas of mines and resources, it was clear that the Premier gave direction to the Leader of the House to stop questions at any point—making him seem ridiculous. I want to say: we will not be stopped, we will hold you to account and some of the things we did in the mining sector are vitally important. One of them being in the Mount Isa area. We recognise how important the Mount Isa Copper Smelter is. Thousands of jobs back the mineral economy of the whole region. It was alarming to see that both the department and particularly the minister seemed completely unprepared. They could not tell us dates; they did not know whether they had costings; they did not seem to have any direction about when they knew of the impending closure. It highlighted a complete lack of accountability from the government to address those vital concerns of the Mount Isa community.

Further to this was the government's cuts. Their failure to support the North West Minerals Province through the critical minerals sector was the axing of the Collaborative Exploration Initiative. Bravely, the director-general said there was one round left but we know that after that it dies because this government does not value the exploration for critical minerals in the North West Minerals Provinces that are so vital to finding the mines of the future. So when the minister goes out to events and says, 'You find it, I will sign it,' he does not intend to help them find it, he actually wants to block that by taking away funding. It is evident that the mining and exploration centres in the western province deserve respect and trust. By cutting the CEI grants the minister and his government have completely undermined that. We did not get time to but we wanted to also examine natural hydrogen which is a new form of exploration that has often been overlooked in previous exploration. We wanted to give miners the resources that we can provide to them about the geology of Queensland and where they can explore for it because we have seen finds throughout the world but especially in South Australia. We did not let the South Australians—

Mr Head interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): One moment, member for Logan. Member for Callide, do not call out across the chamber, thank you.

Mr POWER: We do not want to see the South Australians get ahead but that is what this government is doing. We also saw complete confusion over coal royalties. The minister did not seem to know. He was, of course, going up to Townsville and telling them that we would meet everyone's expectations when it comes to coal royalties but when we asked him he came out and said the matter of coal royalties sits within the Treasurer's ambit and cabinet deliberations, but that was not what he was telling miners. My question for the House on this vitally important issue is: is there a job where he is sent out to Central Queensland to say one message—the not-true message—and then the Treasurer and the Premier go to their banker friends in the south-east and say a completely different message? Is that what this government is about because that is what we have heard?

We also heard about consulting jobs for donors. One of the most concerning things we heard was that the minister directed the director-general to engage Mr Ian Davies for a period of up to 25 days and during that 25-day period the department of natural resources will pay \$187,500. These were the facts that we found out. I suggest that you read the rest of the statement of reservation report.

Queenslanders are rightly concerned about what is going on within mines and resources in Queensland.



Hon. AJ PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (7.46 pm): I rise to speak on the Primary Industries and Resources Committee's estimates report. If estimates proved the Labor opposition does not get primary industries, the statement of reservation reconfirmed it. They scrambled to find issues and resorted to spurious arguments, misrepresentations, posturing and manufactured opposition. If only the shadow minister had shown such an interest in crime during Labor's crime crisis. It is disappointing the opposition never raised important issues such as invasive pests and weeds, forestry, horticulture, agricultural education or even support for Mossman. There was nothing about our draft timber plan which was announced during estimates. It is increasingly clear the opposition is not interested in extra help for primary producers on the biosecurity front. Attempting to downplay our delivery of additional biosecurity staff it resorted to specious arguments about terminology. The director-general made it patently clear—

Staff and officers are interchangeable. The SDS is absolutely accurate in terms of how we structure the funding over the next five years.

I repeat: the Crisafulli government is delivering 100 additional biosecurity officers over the term of this government and the delivery has started.

The opposition also does not know the purpose of the shark management program—it missed the point. Its purpose is to protect human life. The intent of the Fisheries Act is 'helping to prevent shark attacks.' Claims the program is unscientific is disingenuous. The science is what informed us about implementing more of the technology proven to be effective at reducing the risk of shark attacks. The former Labor government never conducted target shark population assessments. The Crisafulli government is unashamedly putting human safety first. Labor's response ignored the advice that concerns about fishing activity in the Albert and Logan rivers were being investigated. My office has responded to correspondents who raised it. They were advised the decision to allow barramundi to be taken by commercial fishers was made by the former Labor government. On 1 January last year, the former Labor government's changes to fisheries regulation—

Mr Smith interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): One moment member for Gympie. Member for Bundaberg, would you please not call out across the chamber.

Mr PERRETT:—allowed barramundi to be taken by commercial fishers in the East Coast Inshore Fishery management region 5, which includes the Albert and Logan rivers. I repeat: there has been no change under this government. I have asked the department to review the science used by the former government to make its decision.

Primary Industries Prosper 2050 is the largest collaboration between primary industries and government in at least a decade. Instead of welcoming the input of stakeholders and those who live and breathe primary industries, the opposition again resorted to misrepresentations, claiming recreational fishers were not consulted. Bob Baldwin of the Australian Fishing Trade Association, which represents the interests of recreational fishers, was there at the development of the blueprint in February. Recreational fishers provided survey responses and input at an information webinar. The blueprint was also heavily promoted through Fisheries Queensland's Instagram and Facebook channels, with a combined reach of almost 140,000 recreational and commercial fishers. Their input was in the final Prosper 2050 document, which specifically references the value of recreational fishing and opportunities within the sector. The Queensland fishing and seafood five-year action plan will also include a focus on recreational and charter fishing. Stakeholders will again have several opportunities to connect in to the planned consultation and engagement project, which will start soon.

The opposition also complained about changes to Spanish mackerel management. Put simply, under our changes recreational fishers get to take home more catch. Our changes are based on science. President of the United Recreational Fishers, Jeff Knuth, commended us for our leadership in reviewing the scientific assessment of Spanish mackerel populations. An article quoted him as saying—


... the previous ... Government's scientific approach had significant methodological limitations that led to unnecessarily restrictive fishing regulations.

...

Queensland's fishing community ... has faced significant restrictions based on what we now understand was incomplete data.

We looked at the science. To claim otherwise is hypocritical about the last 10 years. Labor's decisions are notorious for not being based on science. They were more concerned about appeasing single-focus interest groups. Before the Labor opposition take issue with the management of primary industries, I suggest they first look at their record of the last 10 years.

I will take the opportunity now, as I did not get it at the end of estimates, to thank everyone who was involved. I would like to place on record my thanks to everyone who was involved with the preparation including the director-general, the deputy directors-general and departmental staff. I also thank the Speaker for chairing the hearing and the committee for its work.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.51 pm): I want to start today by thanking Queensland's hardworking public servants. Each and every day across our state they deliver the services that we all rely on. Without them, our hospitals, our schools and our frontline services in our communities could not function. Also, without them, a lot of LNP ministers would look even worse than they already do. In particular, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary effort that goes into preparing for the budget estimates process. Hundreds of staff spend weeks compiling briefing notes for ministers, collating data and ensuring transparency. Their job is made so much harder by this government, which is focused on dodging security.

Estimates should be about genuine scrutiny and accountability, not a process deliberately designed to reduce questioning or interrupted or interfered with by endless points of order taken by the member for Moggill. In fact, during the Primary Industries and Resources Committee estimates hearing, the only thing more distracting than the endless points of order taken by the member for Moggill was the thousands of angry teachers protesting out the front. They certainly made themselves heard to the committee. During the middle of deliberations it was hard to hear the questions and the answers. It is sad, though, that the LNP and this government are not listening to teachers.

This year's estimates revealed deep problems within the Crisafulli LNP government. Before even turning to policy, it is clear that Queenslanders were promised accountability, transparency, honesty and respect for taxpayer dollars but are being delivered the opposite. The government claimed it would strengthen scrutiny, yet it has abolished the 70-30 rule. It promised integrity but shamelessly operates in secrecy, deceit, obfuscation and deflection.

First, on the issue of progressive coal royalties, Queenslanders deserve certainty about a revenue stream that funds our hospitals, our schools and our infrastructure, yet when asked directly whether those royalties would continue beyond 2028—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr MARTIN: I would think a lot of their backbenchers might want to know as well. When asked if the progressive coal royalties would continue beyond 2028, the minister washed his hands of responsibility. Instead of providing a straight answer, he deferred to the Treasurer. At the very same time, industry stakeholders were being told in private that a new deal was on the table. This doublespeak undermines investment certainty and the state's fiscal credibility. Most importantly, if the LNP will not continue progressive coal royalties beyond 2028, what services will be cut from the budget? Will it be hospitals, schools, roads or 50-cent fares? Queenslanders need to know. It is disappointing that they refused to answer.

Second, we learned that the government has been handing out consulting contracts to party donors. Mr Ian Davies, a recent donor to the LNP, was awarded \$187,500 for a contract of just 25 days work. It is certainly a good job if you can get it. However, you will not be able to get it unless you are a close mate of the LNP. When asked what expertise he brought to the issues around Mount Isa and base metals, the director-general could not provide an answer. Queenslanders were promised respect for taxpayers' money. Instead they are getting cushy consulting gigs for LNP insiders. It is part of a broader problem. Senior roles and lucrative contracts are going to those with political connections, not those best placed to serve Queensland.

Third, we saw the government caught flat-footed on the future of the Mount Isa copper smelter.


Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): One moment, member for Stretton. There is too much background noise.

Mr MARTIN: We saw the government caught flat-footed on the future of the Mount Isa copper smelter. This is the lifeblood of Western Queensland, supporting thousands of jobs and underpinning our critical minerals sector. The government has known about the risk of closure since February, yet it came to estimates with no plan, no accountability and no answers for workers. Queenslanders were

promised leadership and honesty but, instead, workers were met with silence and secrecy. Even worse, they chose to cut the Collaborative Exploration Initiative, a program that gave smaller explorers the chance to advance projects in critical minerals. The industry itself has said that this decision risks driving investment away from Queensland.

In manufacturing, we saw the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program hit delays. That is a project Labor established to create jobs in Maryborough and Torbanlea and to build the trains that Queenslanders so desperately need. The minister's statements were inconsistent with his own director-general's evidence, and the public was left none the wiser about when those trains will arrive. Once again, officials were told one story while the minister spun another—the hallmark of a government that says one thing in public while doing another behind closed doors.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (7.57 pm): I want to take this opportunity to again highlight the excellent work that my Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development is delivering for Queenslanders each and every day. I will try to clear up some of the misconceptions of those opposite.

When it comes to the coal industry, the only people in this House confused about that sector are those opposite. We went to the election stating that there would be no changes to the current royalty regime this term, and that has not changed. There is also no change to our support for the industry. On this side of the House we back the coal sector 100 per cent. We stand with Queensland's hardworking coalmining families in Central and North Queensland—unlike those opposite such as the member for Cooper, who sided with the Greens and attended anti-coal workshops, or the shadow resources minister, who failed to meet with a single coal company for the first six months of this term, or the former treasurer, whose anti-coal policies decimated confidence in the industry and drove investment off a cliff. That was the same former treasurer who knew that Glencore was closing its Mount Isa Mines business and knew that Glencore's copper smelter was in trouble. What did he do? Absolutely nothing! Glencore told those opposite in 2023 that that smelter was closing and what did they do? Absolutely nothing! That is because those opposite do not care about regional Queensland. Saving Mount Isa has been at the top of my to-do list since day one. I met Glencore's global CEO, Gary Nagle, in the first fortnight after coming to government and our engagement has been ongoing—

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, please address any comments through the chair.

Mr LAST: Our engagement has been ongoing ever since. Our government has put an offer on the table to Glencore in support of the Mount Isa community and we are working in lock step with the federal government as they finalise their offer. This is the most important issue on my desk, and I make no apologies about engaging the best and the brightest, whether that is from our department or external contractors, to make sure that we achieve the best possible outcome for the Mount Isa community, the North West Minerals Province and Queenslanders more broadly. The ongoing operation of the copper smelter and the Townsville refinery are of national importance and deserves a national solution.


Labor could have resolved this issue months before the 2024 election, but it turned a blind eye—like it turned a blind eye to the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. The timeline for the delivery of the trains being built under QTMP has not changed from the timeline that our government inherited from those opposite in October 2024. The first trains are on schedule to enter passenger service in 2027 and all 65 trains are on track to be in service before the 2032 Olympics. The QTMP will support more than 1,300 jobs over the life of the program and at the end of July 2025 there were more than 350 full-time workers on site as part of the construction of the Torbanlea train manufacturing facility, and nearly 150 of these are Fraser Coast locals.

In July, Downer commenced a public recruitment process to ensure that the first intake of workers are ready for when train manufacturing commences at Torbanlea in early 2026, and this is where the rubber hits the road for the Fraser Coast. There will be 200 new blue-collar jobs. Fitters, boilermakers and trades assistants will be some of the first to be onboarded at Torbanlea followed by electrical trades and painters. There will also be 100 new white-collar jobs. These roles will include engineering, safety operations, human resources management and administrative roles and at least 35 apprentices and seven trainees, and another 80 positions supporting the delivery of the QTMP will be recruited on the Fraser Coast and across Queensland by Downer's major subcontractors.

We are backing Queensland's manufacturing industry through a \$79.1 million investment into the new Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program—\$79.1 million. We are delivering the

\$9.5 billion Queensland Train Manufacturing Program and \$10 million for two new manufacturing hubs. We have opened the Toowoomba hub and planning for the Sunshine Coast location is well advanced. We are backing mining exploration with a \$5.1 million investment in targeted geoscientific activities and we have opened up nine new areas for gas exploration across the Cooper, Eromanga, Bowen and Surat basins to boost future supply. We are getting on with the job. We are about creating employment in this state and we will continue to do so.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Logan, if you persist in calling out, I will have to put you on a warning. Thank you.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (8.02 pm): I enjoyed estimates. In fact, I found it more fun than a helicopter joy-ride through Cairns. It was great fun. I do have to address what the Minister for Primary Industries just said previous to this speech, because he may need to come in and correct the record, especially when he talks about the gillnetting in the Logan and Albert rivers. During estimates we raised with the minister the concerns of recreational fishers of illegal fishing activity. No-one suggested that the licences were not there for these commercial fishers, but when you are running out 800-metre gillnets across the mouth of the Logan and Albert rivers that is a concern to our recreational fishers and that is what we brought to estimates.

Clearly the minister was asleep during estimates and that is why he could not articulate a response here earlier. While talking about people being asleep in their job, 31 pieces of correspondence about the matter in the Logan and Albert rivers went to the office of the minister. How many responses were given by the time of estimates? None. There were 31 pieces of correspondence highlighting potential illegal fishing activity and the minister's office did not respond to one. In fact, when we asked how many of these recreational fishers he had spoken to, he said, 'Last weekend some bloke came up to me at a fishing event and he raised the issue.' So, yes, one. Wow! One out of 31. Isn't he going well?

I will now move on to the wonderful Minister for Manufacturing. Let me tell members: he was not across this brief earlier this year and after our questions it is clear that he is still not across this brief at the moment. In fact, he just said it then. He just admitted a delay to the construction of the QTMP site in Maryborough, but do not take my word for it. I thought because the LNP was in government it might try to say that there is some spin and Labor is trying to mislead, so with regard to the QTMP manufacturing site I went back and found the questions the LNP asked last year and decided that I would ask them this year and the answers were different—same questions, different answers. How interesting. When I asked when construction will be finalised of the QTMP site in Torbanlea, the DG for TMR said that, yes, there were delays but was not able to commit to a construction end date and was not able to guarantee that that construction would be delivered by the end of 2025 as they had answered when Labor was in government and in charge of that program. Indeed, when I asked the minister when the first train would be delivered, he admitted—unwillingly knowing, I am sure—2027 despite the previous year's estimates answer being 2026. That is just great evidence of how the LNP has got into government and now we are seeing delays impacting workers across the Wide Bay.

This was clear when we tabled two questions from question time about the QTMP site in Torbanlea and the Maryborough manufacturing site in Maryborough and the minister still could not explain why he said that both questions were the same question, so two different sites and two different questions but he still could not answer it. In fact, he confused himself again by confusing the 525 jobs in Maryborough with the 800 jobs in Torbanlea. What commitment will the LNP give to those 525 workers, some of whom have already lost their jobs because of the failure of the manufacturing minister to go to the shareholding ministers for QR and say, 'Stop the cuts to the diesel tilt trains in Maryborough. These people need their jobs'? He was silent on that and he admitted that it was not in his remit—not in the manufacturing minister's remit—to stand up for manufacturing workers. This is a manufacturing minister who said, 'It's not my problem. I don't have to stand up for workers. I'm going to get rolled by my cabinet colleagues.'

We had a moment of honesty from the primary industries minister. We know that the Premier does not want to talk about victims of crime when it comes to the data and the numbers. That is why he took victims out of the classification of 'other theft', but during the police estimates hearing we heard the Police Commissioner say that 'other theft' involved farm theft and cattle theft. Those farmers would be victims of crime, but, no, not under an LNP Crisafulli government. Thankfully the Minister for Primary Industries showed that he does not support the Premier's view because he admitted that he had been a victim of cattle theft. Indeed, when asked whether he was a victim of crime, he said, 'Well, any crime is a crime.' Thanks, Minister.



Mr DALTON (Mackay—LNP) (8.07 pm): This was my first estimates—a process that is an important part of accountability in this House. It provides Queenslanders with a clear picture of how their money is being spent and, just as importantly, where Labor failed to deliver. One thing is crystal clear: after nearly a decade of government, Labor has left Queensland's primary industries weakened by neglect and short-sighted decisions. Under Labor our biosecurity systems were stretched to breaking point and we saw invasive pests like fire ants and weeds advance while frontline staff were cut back. The cost of this neglect is still being borne by our farmers and regional communities. Under Labor regional water infrastructure stalled and projects promised were delayed, shelved or announced, and again without delivery. Farmers were left without the water security that they need to grow Queensland's food and fibre. Under Labor red tape piled up higher while farmgate profitability fell lower. Rather than backing our producers, Labor buried them in compliance and uncertainty.

The contrast with the LNP government's approach could not be clearer. The LNP budget for primary industries is about delivery, not delay. It is about backing the industries that feed us, clothe us and underpin tens of thousands of regional jobs. We are strengthening biosecurity with real investment with boots on the ground and the technology needed to protect our borders and our farms. We are investing in water infrastructure, delivering long promised dams, pipelines and upgrades which will create certainty for farmers to unlock regional economic growth.

We are cutting red tape, providing certainty around land and resource use and restoring confidence for the agricultural, fishery and forestry sectors and, critically, we are investing in innovation, supporting new technologies and value-adding opportunities that will keep Queenslanders competitive in global markets. A clear example of this is the difference in fisheries management. For years under Labor, Queensland fisheries were forced to operate under flawed science and heavy-handed restrictions. Nowhere was it clearer than in Labor's disastrous Spanish mackerel stock assessment which slashed catch limits, threatened jobs and devastated confidence in both the commercial and recreational sectors.

This LNP government has listened, acted and delivered. A new credible, science-based assessment has overturned Labor's botched work and confirmed what fishers and experts were saying all along: Spanish mackerel stocks are sustainable and growing. As a result, the government is increasing the catch limits for both commercial and recreational fishers, providing long overdue certainty and restoring fairness. For Mackay and for the communities up and down the coast, this decision means stronger local economies, more jobs and a renewed confidence that our fisheries will be managed and responsibly sustained.

This is what good government looks like—listening to industry, respecting science and delivering outcomes that balances sustainability with prosperity. These are not empty announcements, they are budgeted, they are funded and they are being delivered. Queensland primary producers deserve more than platitudes. They deserve a government that has their back. For too long under Labor our farmers were treated as an afterthought. Today under the LNP they are front and centre in building a stronger Queensland economy.

The estimates hearing confirmed what producers already know: this is a government focused on outcomes, not excuses. I reaffirm my strong support for the LNP government's vision for a resilient, competitive and prosperous primary industries sector in Queensland. I thank the staff for their dedication. From the DGs to the people who wrote the reports, they were very informative and very useful.




Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (8.12 pm): Attending at estimates representing the KAP I focused on areas of policy or issues that we feel could give best bang for buck or real grunt to the economy for the people of Queensland. I had a focus on my area in relation to natural resources and mines in the North West Minerals Province. I started off with the gas supply. In terms of enabling wealth generation, we will just keep talking about the gas reservation policy. The study that was done many years ago when this all rolled out said that for every dollar we earn off the selling of gas and exporting it overseas we forego \$22 of lost industrial output. Those predictions are playing out. The gas price has risen from \$3 to \$4 a gigajoule. It soared up to \$20 to \$30 a gigajoule and then settled back down to \$16 a gigajoule. It is constraining manufacturing and development throughout our state. That requires adjustment from our government, just like it did in Western Australia to enable billions of dollars of manufacturing development over there. We call for that again and we will continue to.

We called for advocacy from the minister towards CopperString and the impact it has on mines. If we do not have the copper smelter there is no point to the nation-building projects everyone has been patting themselves on the back about, like CopperString, which has been a great commitment from this

and the previous government. There are very big stakes at play if those things do not go ahead. We talked about the copper mine in Mount Isa where 1,200 jobs have gone because Glencore, the mine owner, has said they are better off spending their money in copper mines in other countries and they will come back to this when it suits them—not when it suits the people of Queensland. It suits us to have 1,200 copper-producing jobs right now, but it does not suit them so they just walk away. They have left 150 million tonnes of copper in the ground when the copper price is at an all-time high. There is a great future in copper. I have counted now eight parties coming to my door saying they want to buy it and keep it operating. In this state under our legislation Glencore are allowed to walk away from that resource and leave it untouched, generating nothing for the people of Queensland. That is unacceptable. I think our laws should reflect what most people in Queensland think. They did not buy the freehold over that land, it is a mining lease, and as long as they are operating those mining activities they can be there, but if they are not, go away and let someone else mine it and extract that resource. They will pay good money for it. The government does not have to give it to them. Sell it. I prosecuted that in the time that we had.

Moving on to primary industries, we were trying to look at constraints and opportunities. In relation to Flinders River irrigation, it is a sad joke that there is 3.8 million megalitres flowing down the Flinders River every year and we are taking about one or two per cent. We are calling out for opportunities for prosperity. Towns are dying. We want to be able to take water out of the river. You do not have to build a dam. Just let us take the water out. It is being fumbled with. It seems we are no closer than 13 years ago when I entered this job. Other people in that area were saying the same 20 or 30 years ago. There are environmental constraints. People say, 'No way, you can't take any water out of that.' I focused on Andrew Pauli, a bloke who is having a real crack. He could not afford country down south so he thought he would be a pioneer in the mid-west area and start farming. He just needs a little bit of water out of that river and he could make his crops sing and provide wealth for the whole state. He is battling away up there and we cannot even give Andrew Pauli water. I asked what can we do to get Andrew Pauli water out of the Flinders River. Every year 98 per cent of it flows out to sea. As a good government you should be able to effect something that allows him to take some water out to produce wealth for this state.

We talked about pigs, weeds, cats, biosecurity—that is a big deal if left unattended. I also identified more buying in national parks. In terms of cattle production they are hidden constraints. Everyone down here says how great it is they are preserving them, but I do not know what is being preserved because most of those national parks are in a pretty poor state. Often they are the biggest harbinger weeds and pests and causes of fires. There seems to be more of them proliferating. That has been a constraint on prosperity. They are the sorts of things we tried to concentrate on. I think the session was handled reasonably well, but we did not get the answers we were after.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (8.17 pm): I rise to talk on the report of the Primary Industries and Resources Committee on the 2025-26 estimates. Estimates is one of our key transparency measures in our modified Westminster system and this was the first time I got to experience them as an MP and a committee member. It was certainly a different experience from mustering cattle out on the property, but I am thankful we have a system where we can ask ministers and departments directly about what was contained in the 2025-26 budget. What did we find out from the estimates in the Primary Industries and Resources Committee I hear you ask. We found out that we have a government that is committed to our primary industries and resources sector, a government that is committed to further building our manufacturing sector.

A government member: And looking after our chooks!

Mr G KELLY: That is exactly right. This is a government that, rather than putting stops in the way of our farmers, and our miners, is helping to unlock our potential. We are a state that helps feed the world, and Minister Perrett confirmed that we are going to keep doing this as part of the government's 2050 primary industries blueprint. So committed is this government to our farmers that we are pushing to see \$30 billion of output from our primary industries by 2030. While those opposite left farmers to rot on the vine, we are helping them to harvest the benefits and supporting them to grow and build.

One of the confirmations that I received during the hearing was around an event that is very close to my heart. The minister confirmed that the budget contains \$4.5 million for Beef Week in Rockhampton for 2027, an event that I have been attending for a long time now. We heard that in 2024 the event generated \$102 million in direct and incidental spending in Rockhampton and \$69.9 million for the rest of Queensland. This is massive for our region. Beef Week is part of Rockhampton's identity and the Crisafulli government's commitment shows that we will help to make it an even better event than it already is.

Protecting our farmers means investing in biosecurity. We are committing \$60.9 million over five years to put more than 100 more officers on the front line, protecting both our primary industries and our environment. We have responded to the science on Spanish mackerel quotas by increasing the recreational catch limit to four per boat and the commercial limit from 165 tonnes a year to 250 tonnes per year. This reflects what the evidence suggests with spawning rates and gives some confidence back to our fishing industry.


We are backing our manufacturers with \$25 million for the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program to help develop export pathways for manufacturers. By encouraging investment in manufacturing, we can help ensure our manufacturing sovereignty and create more jobs for Queenslanders. We are putting first those who make things in this state. Our primary industries were forgotten for too long, our miners had more and more roadblocks put in front of them and our manufacturers were being crushed under rising power prices made worse by Labor's reckless race to renewables.

This government's estimates hearings showed not just to those of us of present but to all of Queensland that we are putting Queenslanders first. We are working to build the prosperity of our state to ensure the future of the next generation.

Mr Martin interjected.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr G KELLY: Don't! We have a lot of work to do to fix the mess we inherited but we are not making excuses. We are focused on delivering for Queensland. The estimates hearings showed that commitment.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (8.21 pm): That was a great end to a speech. The estimates process is meant to give Queenslanders clear and honest answers from their government, to shine a light on decisions that affect their lives, their jobs and their communities. However, as we have heard tonight from this side of the House, this year's estimates revealed a troubling pattern from the Crisafulli LNP government: a lack of transparency, a refusal to take responsibility and a clear disregard for regional Queensland.

Let us begin with the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program, which is a major project for our transport network and a vital source for jobs in Maryborough and also on the Fraser Coast. This was a Labor initiative designed to build trains in Queensland, by Queenslanders and for Queenslanders. It was about more than transport; it was about manufacturing, local jobs in regional Queensland and regional growth for our community.

However, under the LNP, the program has literally gone off track. At estimates we heard the minister say that the first train is on schedule for delivery in 2027. However, the same day that he made that commitment the department's website stated that it would arrive for testing in late 2026. The director-general later confirmed that the minister's version means that there will be a one-year delay in the manufacturing program. This is not just a clerical error. It is either a serious oversight or a deliberate attempt to downplay the delay that is coming for trains in Queensland. Either way, we deserve the truth and we do not deserve the spin. When asked for a full delivery timeline, which was what we should have, the minister could not provide one. Still there is no confirmation on whether the Torbanlea construction site will be finished by the end of 2025, as originally promised. This is not a minor delay. It creates real uncertainty for workers and for communities that have backed in this project from day 1.


However, it is not just the trains. Across the estimates hearings we saw the same pattern of confusion, contradiction and a failure to deliver. On coal royalties, the minister refused to say whether Queensland's progressive royalty system would remain after 2028 even though he has privately told industry stakeholders that a new model is being looked at. We have one message delivered in public and another message delivered to stakeholders behind closed doors. That is not transparency in Queensland; that is wordplay and it damages trust. Certainly it damages not only this government but also our entire resources sector.

We also saw the return of old-school cronyism. Ian Davies, an LNP donor, was given a consultancy worth \$187,500 for 25 days work. I must admit, that is a pretty good gig if you can get it. That is nearly \$7,500 a day of taxpayers' money going to someone with direct political ties to the LNP. That is public money, not party funds. While regional services are being cut in Queensland, that kind of spending is simply indefensible. That is why we called out the LNP during the estimates process.

Still there is no concrete plan for the future of the Mount Isa copper smelter, which is a major employer in Western Queensland. They have axed the Collaborative Exploration Initiative, which

supported investment in critical minerals in that area and was needed for the future of the town. These are not isolated decisions. They are choices that undermine jobs, discourage investment in Western Queensland and weaken, if not decimate, regional communities.

What about broader regional development? We learned that the successful Building our Regions program, which I was so proud to champion, has been quietly scrapped. The Queensland Battery Industry Strategy is also gone, without even basic consultation between the Deputy Premier and his own ministers. Labor will continue to hold this LNP government to account and we will continue to fight for jobs not only in South-East Queensland but right across regional Queensland.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (8.26 pm): It was fantastic to sit in on the estimates process this year. Certainly, there was a clear contrast with estimates processes that I have been a part of in prior years. It was the most transparent and genuine estimates process in the time that I have been in this House, which is fantastic. The Premier made a commitment that he would tidy up the process for the sake of Queenslanders and that is what we saw through genuine change, with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker doing a fantastic job of chairing the hearings and ministers being able to answer questions fulsomely.

I wish to comment on what the member for Gladstone was talking about. It is incredibly sad that the Labor Party are that angry with the community of Maryborough for booting out the former Labor member for Maryborough that they would rather scare the community into thinking that we are making changes to the important jobs there than actually work with them. Rather than work with the community of Maryborough and try to win them back, they treat them like mugs and run scare campaigns in that community. We now have a fantastic member for Maryborough who is fighting hard for his community. He will ensure that he protects the jobs of the Maryborough community.

I remember the first estimates hearings that I sat through at which we talked about coal royalties. We know that this is a government that works with industry. We made clear commitments as to how we will treat the mining sector in Queensland because of how valuable it is to our state. The former resources minister, Scott Stewart, was asked when he knew about that royalty regime. I was elected on 18 June and the progressive royalty tiers were announced on 21 June 2022. From memory, the then minister responded on 7 June, which is two weeks from when the royalty tier was introduced in Queensland. Even the minister at the time knew two weeks out when that tier was introduced. That shows how little the former government consulted and that hurt investment confidence in this state. There was no transparency, there was no consultation and, frankly, the treasurer of the time did not care. He wanted to take Queensland for everything that it had.

Those opposite seem to be confused as to why we cannot continue to spend like drunken sailors in Queensland. They are pulling different programs out of thin air that apparently we have cut. What I will say to those opposite is you cannot cut programs that were not funded in the first place. That is the unfortunate reality that the LNP government and our Treasurer, David Janetzki, inherited.

Those opposite should reflect on their decisions of the past. I will say they probably did in some instances because there were some areas that the minister would have liked to have been asked some questions on but they chose to avoid them. One of those areas in the estimates hearing was the fire ant program. They did not ask any questions of Minister Perrett about the fire ant program, and that shows they know they failed miserably at that program during their decade in government.

It was fantastic to hear on the day about the mackerel review to increase the catch limits for commercial and recreational fishers. About once a year I get a fishing rod in the water, and when I do get out I thoroughly enjoy fishing. I am looking forward to the outcome of that consultation process.

We have a fantastic resources minister who is working hard, who backs the mining industry, who is getting on with the job and who is getting things moving here in Queensland. Across the board he has spent a lot of time and effort trying to fix the Mount Isa problem that we inherited from those opposite.

There was a question asked by those opposite of the Minister for Regional and Rural Development about the Biloela maternity ward. I was shocked. This week marks three years since the maternity ward went on bypass because of the failures of those opposite. All of a sudden now that they are in opposition they want to talk about a problem they created, and it is only because they are trying to set up some sort of political wedge. It is hard to wedge someone on a problem that was your own making. I say to the community of Biloela that we are working hard to restore maternity services. It is a commitment that we made and it is a commitment that we will deliver on.



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (8.31 pm): I rise to speak on the Primary Industries and Resources Committee estimates report. In doing so I indicate to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that I have probably over 1,000 hours of estimates hearings under my belt both from the Senate and from this House. I have seen some highs and I have seen some lows, but the last estimates program was probably the lowest I have ever seen.

I want to refer particularly to the primary industries sector hearings. We first heard a dixer from the member for Burnett to the member for Gympie. He asked about the Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce, which was introduced by Labor. We funded \$37 million into that program, but the LNP government could not even match that and only put in \$24 million. In his answer, the member for Gympie referred to the Invasive Species Council and promoted them somehow in commending what the government was doing. One only needs to turn to recent reports from the ABC—and I will table those shortly—to know of the fire ants detected at Broadmeadow coalmine up near Moranbah and, more recently, spreading to a further five mines.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles from ABC News online regarding the detection of fire ants at Broadmeadow Coal Mine.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, National Fire Ant Eradication response update.

The Invasive Species Council is really concerned about what is happening with this failed government program in terms of fire ants and what they have done. It has spread that far. We never had that when we were managing the program. Therefore, it demonstrates their ineptitude with regard to dealing with this problem.

Furthermore, the member for Gympie demonstrated his ineptitude and also his blatant plagiarism when referring to documents of the fire ant program. I know the member for Gympie has never understood that this is a national program. He still continues to advocate that it is not a national program. I want to table the minutes of the national program where it states—

... a seasonal bait trial was initiated in 2023 to assess the efficacy of the IGR treatment during the winter months compared to the warmer months and to explore options for reducing the eradication period. The trial will be completed in early 2024.

A trial of the feasibility of using bait in a wettable matrix will be undertaken in early 2024 to determine if this can support treatment during the summer rainy season.

Tabled paper: Web page titled 'National Management Group for the National Fire Ant Eradication Program'.

Therefore, the program was implemented when Labor was in government; however, the Minister for Primary Industries tried to infer that the Crisafulli government had somehow introduced this in its term of government. It was a demonstration of pure plagiarism. He took someone else's work and tried to advocate for its being a success of this government. For someone who has been in this House for many years and should know better, it is a horrendous, outrageous, slanderous and scurrilous attitude to take.

I will be writing to the member for Burnett, the chair of the committee, with regard to the blatant plagiarism that the member delivered to the committee during the estimates hearings in trying to advocate that this was their work. I have clearly demonstrated today through the documentation I have tabled where this program sits. I will further table a document from the National Management Group that advocates for the overall incursion of fire ants right across the nation. One would think a member of the National Party would understand what 'national' means, but that is not the case in this regard.

These are not AI generated words. These are the words spoken by a minister of the Crown who is supposed to be here protecting one of the best commodities of this state—our primary industries. He is failing, once again. He failed in opposition and he is failing now in government. The minister should hang his head in shame in terms of what he is doing in this respect.

A government member: Mr Red Fire Ant.

Mr FURNER: Here we go! Once again, all of those documents which I have tabled and the dates show that the program was initiated under the national program when Labor was in government. It is not a program that is controlled by the Queensland government. It is a program that is cost funded nationally by every state and every territory, including the Commonwealth, and run by the national—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Order! The time for debate on the report has expired.


(Time expired)

Report adopted.

Education, Arts and Communities Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): The question is—

That the report of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee be adopted.

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (8.37 pm): I would like to start my contribution this evening by acknowledging the efforts of our dedicated committee secretariat and the Speaker, who diligently and with good humour and grace presided over the hours of our estimates hearings in 2025. Thank you also to the Clerk and the other Parliamentary Service staff, all of whom should be acknowledged for their assistance. I do wish to convey my thanks also to the members of the committee for their active participation in the estimates process and to the member for Redlands and the member for Moggill.

Our committee was visited by a series of shadow members throughout the estimates process, and, on reflection, I do wish to put on record my concern. Our committee has always sought to act in good faith and, as is necessary at times, we have disagreed agreeably. Unfortunately, this good faith environment, which has received positive feedback, including from committee witnesses and departmental officials who have said it was refreshing and beneficial to the process, was not able to be upheld by our visiting shadow ministers. Perhaps what was exposed through the hearing was not to their liking, or perhaps the minister's answers to the questions—fulsome and thorough as they were—passed beyond the sound bite responses that they wanted.


Estimates 2025 was the final chapter in the decline and fall of the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government. Former ministers who had failed Queenslanders, former ministers who had stopped listening, had their decade of decline exposed and contrasted to the first 10 months of delivery under our fresh start for Queensland.

Estimates 2025 saw the disclosure of some great challenges facing Queenslanders. In the education session, the committee heard how teachers, communities and students who had been calling out for investment in school infrastructure had been ignored under the former government. The *Comprehensive review of infrastructure renewal* report demonstrated how our hardworking teachers and our next generation of doctors, tradies, scientists, small business owners and public servants were learning in facilities that are struggling and below par. A decade of underinvestment has left Queensland schools with a \$414 million backlog in maintenance and one-third of school assets at the end of their life. Queenslanders were lucky to have the minister outline how the Crisafulli government is delivering and investing money in maintenance to fix the former government's mess.

In the second session, Queenslanders heard that the priority of the Crisafulli government has been to deliver tangible outcomes for Queenslanders. Whether it is securing the water needed for Woorabinda or reconciling the desire for home ownership on Palm Island, our focus is on delivering tangible outcomes. We also heard that of the 19 Closing the Gap targets only five were met or were on track to be met under the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government.

In the final session of our hearing, we heard how the Crisafulli government has launched an inquiry into the broken child safety system—the system overseen by the former Labor government that grew to be a billion dollar residential care system, a system that saw our foster carers being treated with disdain and a system that traumatised a generation of our state's most vulnerable children. Tragically, Minister Camm also shared how under Labor, at its worst point, victims' calls to the Womensline were answered just 41.9 per cent of the time.

This estimates we learned again that the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government left this state not with a bang but with a whimper. I wish to offer my thanks to each of the ministers for attending and for providing their answers to our questions. I wish to acknowledge, once again, the opportunity we had to ask questions around the investment in our electorates in the 2025-26 budget. Our communities matter and I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli government that is delivering a fresh start for Queensland.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (8.41 pm): I think this hearing is what you would call a train wreck. This is what happens when you have a minister who just cannot be bothered, who did not want the job in the first place and who, rumour has it, is already setting up his campaign to run for mayor of the Gold Coast.

We have a minister who was and is in the middle of enterprise bargaining negotiations with our precious teachers, and those negotiations are not going well. Over 50,000 teachers voted to go out on strike because of the insulting wages offer that the LNP government made to them. He is the first minister in 16 years to have teachers go out on strike. In fact, that strike happened the day before our estimates hearing. On that day over 10,000 teachers across Queensland protested.

We discovered at the estimates hearing that this minister has only held two meetings with the QTU since becoming minister, but neither was about enterprise bargaining. Neither he nor the Premier have attended any of the 18 meetings held with the QTU about enterprise bargaining. He stands by his

response to a media question about the QTU's claim that the wages offer would put them amongst the lowest paid in the country when he said, 'Lies, lies and damn statistics.' The minister believes everyone cherrypicks data to suit their narrative. I am not sure if the Minister for Youth Justice—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Bulimba, although the member for Surfers Paradise did not rise to his feet to make a point of order, I did hear you use unparliamentary language and I would ask you to please withdraw.

Ms FARMER: Apologies, Mr Deputy Speaker, I withdraw.

The minister believes everyone cherrypicks data to suit their narrative. I am not sure if the Premier and the Minister for Youth Justice would be happy that he said that, but that is what he said.

The day after the strike, the minister could not name the five interest areas being negotiated with the QTU through the enterprise bargaining process. In the middle of enterprise bargaining negotiations that were clearly not going well he had to be dragged kicking and screaming by the Premier to go to the QTU state conference just hours before he was flying off to the Cultural Olympiad in Paris. He thought it was more important, or possibly more fun, to go on a European junket.

The minister tried to penalise kids and families for the strike action of teachers by sending out conflicting messages about attendance. He refused to pass on a booklet that a teacher had given me for the Premier that described why teachers were going on strike. I tabled that booklet in the House in case member did not see it.

Tabled paper: Booklet, undated, describing why teachers are taking industrial action.

It illustrates the reasons teachers were going on strike. The minister said he was not going to give it to the Premier, but I said, 'It's okay because he lives in my electorate—that's when he's not living in Parliament House—so I'd pass it on.'

I detailed some horrific accounts of occupational violence from whistleblowers. One document provided outlined 54 incidents at a school between January and July this year, including one student throwing a chair, a staff member being bitten by a student and a student scratching their teacher's eye. I tabled another example of physical and psychological trauma of an 11-year-old student who had been violent to staff almost daily this year, scratching their lips, neck and chest with long, dirty fingernails, grabbing their clothing, trying to headbutt them and attempting to drag them to the ground.

The minister agreed that, although occupational violence is a big issue—though he could not name it as one of the five interest areas—it is not even referenced in the budget, let alone has any money been allocated to it. The minister said he has an occupational violence strategy, but we do have to wonder how he can have an occupational violence strategy if he is not putting any money behind it.

The minister did cite the workplace health and safety officers who were announced just recently, adding to the ones Labor had announced last term. He did not mention that they were due to federal funding not state funding.

I cited his infamous interview with the *Courier-Mail* in February where he said he did not care about his KPIs. I asked if it were true that the Premier had been very upset with him about this and had had a go at him and the minister had said, 'Well, sack me then.' The minister said this was not true.

I cited all the key stakeholder events that he has not attended and he said that he cannot attend everything. This includes not going to the P&C conference which was held in his own electorate and for which he had the member for Warrego fly in from Western Queensland to represent him. He told the media it was because he was at a ministerial conference, but his diaries show he was free for a whole day of the conference and just did not go. I guess he just could not be bothered.

I asked about the crime prevention and youth justice schools, which the act shows he is responsible for but which are in the budget of the Minister for Youth Justice. I asked how they are going to manage that and whether there would be amendments to the legislation? Neither of those ministers seemed to be across that.

The only time the member for Moggill did not raise a point of order was when I asked why this minister is not like the person who wanted to be the minister for education—that is, the member for Moggill. He wanted the job and that is what we need.



Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (8.47 pm): I am proud to have delivered a record investment of \$22.4 billion for education, early childhood and the arts. The Crisafulli government's education budget has delivered \$45 million in Behaviour Boost, \$33 million in antibullying, \$12.7 million to strengthen the early childhood regulatory authority, \$12.372

to expand the Queensland Virtual Academy and \$32.619 million to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes.

After 10 years of decline under the previous Labor government which resulted in declining student attendance rates and learning outcomes, teachers and principals burdened with red tape and escalating bullying and violence, I am proud to have delivered real results in just 10 months in government. The opposition's input into the estimates hearing was proof that they have learned nothing from the lesson given to them by Queenslanders at the last election. Twelve Labor MPs showed up to the industrial action day, including the Leader of the Opposition, in ignorance of the fact that teachers were marching about issues that their government had failed to address in their 10 years in office. The Leader of the Opposition was happy to use teachers for a social media photo opportunity but could not be bothered to show up to the estimates hearing the next day to represent their interests. So much for proudly standing with the QTU.

We have also committed to combatting occupational violence. Following our signing of the historic bilateral agreement, we secured \$57 million to deliver the rollout of almost 140 workplace health and safety officers to tackle occupational violence in the classroom. I note the member opposite referred to that in her contribution a moment ago. I am happy to acknowledge that we signed a record deal with the Commonwealth. Those opposite could not increase the contributions by the state for six years. We now have the federal government giving 25 per cent funding to our state schools. Those opposite could not deliver it.

Under those opposite occupational violence was not being addressed. The occupational violence strategy lapsed and was not renewed. This is a shameful indictment of Labor's priorities in government. I point out too that there was no occupational violence mentioned in the last Labor budget of the Miles government. Suddenly it has become an issue, so I think there is actually more to this story than meets the eye.

I would like to briefly address the opposition's statement of reservation. Once again, they have learnt nothing from their time in opposition. They have contributed a statement to the committee that reads more like a creative writing task than the work of a credible opposition. I would give the opposition an A for delusion and an F for accuracy. I also point out that in their own statement at page 4 they say that the 'Labor Opposition note we cannot ascertain the veracity of these claims'. That basically says all we need to know about their own statement of reservation.

The opposition ignores the new investment in workplace health and safety officers and opposes the Behaviour Boost initiative. I would ask those opposite: why don't they want to see occupational violence addressed? Why don't they support \$45 million flowing to measures to improve behaviour in our schools? With so much negativity I can only surmise that the opposition do not want to see improvements in Queensland schools, and that is disappointing for our students, teachers, principals and school communities.

I turn now to the arts portfolio. We saw a Labor opposition pursue a line of questioning that should leave the members for Mansfield and Ipswich West embarrassed with their statement of reservation—again, reading more like a creative writing piece than the work of a serious opposition. Labor's claims of censorship are nothing more than political theatre designed to mask their own decade of neglect because the matter in question is not about censorship. It is not about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander literary prizes, to which we remain committed. It is about the use of the State Library to provide a platform to an individual who has expressed sympathy with the leader of the Hamas terrorist organisation. The shadow minister owes it to Queenslanders to explain why she thinks this is an appropriate use of our treasured cultural institutions.

The arts budget is a fresh start for Queensland's creative industry with \$9.4 million for regional arts, supporting jobs, funding festivals and amplifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and regional voices that Labor failed to support. Labor also tried to manufacture outrage over the naming of the new QPAC theatre by alleging there was no public consultation. More than 5,000 Queenslanders took part in a month-long process—one of the most open cultural consultations ever held—and, with nearly 900 alternative suggestions received, the Glasshouse Theatre was the overwhelming favourite.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I point out that it is obvious that those opposite cannot deal with no longer being ministers. As proof of that, I give you the member for Bulimba, the shadow minister, who still has on her Twitter page that she is the minister for education.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members!

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one moment, member for Mansfield. I have not given you the call yet. I was bringing the House to order. I call the member for Mansfield.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (8.52 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Whilst I had the great pleasure of working as a principal under Minister Langbroek when he was formerly the minister for education, I remind him that I will determine when I am embarrassed and when I am not. I certainly was not embarrassed by the member for Algeester and the work that she did during estimates.

The 2025 budget estimates process was a real opportunity for the Crisafulli LNP government to show it could deliver on its promises—promises of reform and promises of a fresh start for Queensland. What we witnessed instead was a government that struggled to meet even the most basic expectations of openness, transparency and accountability.

Across every portfolio examined during estimates, the pattern was clear. This government continues to choose secrecy over transparency and political hubris over proper scrutiny. Instead of listening to the experts and being open with Queenslanders, the government has shown an unwillingness to be transparent about its decisions and its priorities. We can see this clearly in the government's approach to child safety.

Despite promising to reform and to strengthen the system, the 2025-26 budget relies heavily on the 17-month commission of inquiry to do the work of the government—work that the government should be doing now. Stakeholders have been consistent in raising their concerns: what is being done to protect vulnerable children in Queensland today while the inquiry is underway?

What we saw during estimates was a lack of immediate action. The minister's decision to dismiss the residential care road map in her opening statement sent a strong message to the sector. The LNP are going to ignore the significant consultation and sector engagement that went into shaping that road map. It also showed an unwillingness to build on work already done in favour of political pointscore and delaying recommendations that could be implemented right away. It should be noted that the director-general did refer to the road map during estimates, despite the fact that the minister had said she had scrapped it.

Foster and kinship carers also received little recognition in the budget. In January 2025, their annual allowance increased by just 1.8 per cent, amounting to only \$5.90 per week. These carers were already stretched, and many were hoping for meaningful support following that minimal increase. However, the budget delivered no additional funding for allowances, despite the minister emphasising that placing children in family-based care is the government's priority. This contradiction highlights a lack of genuine investment in the people who provide safe, stable homes for children in care.

On cost-of-living pressures, the budget also falls short. The Crisafulli LNP government has failed to continue to support Queenslanders with cost of living. The \$1,000 energy rebates are gone and car rego discounts are gone—important cost-of-living support provided by Labor gone under the LNP. Cost of living continues to be a critical challenge for Queenslanders. We know there is significant strain on emergency relief support which provides food or fuel vouchers, essential items such as medications and help to cover utility bills for those most in need. It is disappointing that there was no uplift in this budget to the funding, given the increasing demand and advocacy from key stakeholders. Instead, the government scraped together internal funds. We can see where their priorities lie. Frankly, vulnerable Queenslanders deserve better.

The government's approach to the prevention of domestic and family violence also raises significant concerns. In estimates it was raised that the LNP have abolished the Independent Implementation Supervisor—a key recommendation of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Further, the government failed to commit to publish regular reports on the progress of the taskforce—no transparency, no accountability. The LNP breaks yet more promises to Queenslanders.

As reported in the latest biannual report from the now scrapped Independent Implementation Supervisor, a number of recommendations from the taskforce and the commission of inquiry into police responses to DFV are outstanding or yet to be implemented. We are concerned about the progress of these recommendations by the LNP government. These recommendations were the result of close and considered consultation with the DVF sector, and I will have more to say about that during the second reading debate of the bill when it comes before the House. Ultimately, the LNP's first budget is a budget of broken promises and vulnerable Queenslanders deserve so much better.



Hon. FS SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (8.57 pm): How timely it is and what great delight I take in giving a shout-out to the Mayor of Woorabinda, who is here at Parliament House tonight. It is timely because we are delivering \$80 million to help fix Woorabinda's water supply problem. They have been on boiled water alerts since last year. In great news, the federal government announced only a few weeks ago that they would match our \$80 million so that there is a proper fix. I know that the Labor Party were critical of the fact that we are putting attention on frontline services, to clean drinking water in communities that have a fundamental right to be able to turn on the tap and know that the water is safe to drink.

I did, in fact, talk about clean drinking water because the previous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander minister under the Labor government never talked about clean drinking water in these communities. I have searched the *Hansard*. We could not find one reference in regard to that because they did not make it a priority. In communities where water supply should have been a priority it was never funded. We are funding that water supply. Well done to Mayor Terence Munns and the community who have been fighting for this. The Woorabinda Warriors are warriors, and we stand with them as they seek to build a better future. I also acknowledge the member for Gregory and the work that he is doing.

There are other communities that presented their needs, and we are engaging with them because they deserve to have those frontline services addressed. While it was not a priority for Labor and they are still in denial that they did not fund these projects, we will continue to work with them on these frontline services.

I will address a number of issues in the brief time that I have. One is with regard to the Closing the Gap Priorities Fund. We are focusing on Closing the Gap priorities. We have announced the first tranche of \$108 million based on feedback from the communities that have asked for these critical projects that Labor did not fund.

I want to address Closing the Gap. There seems to be a misunderstanding. Previous Labor government members did not understand where the data came from and were critical that I have not provided the most up-to-date data. In fact, I did provide the most up-to-date data from the Closing the Gap Information Repository, and I refer them back to that because that is where that data came from. I can go through that in detail, but perhaps they should do their research. It is from the Closing the Gap Information Repository, where the most up-to-date data has been published. I do not have enough time, but I have referenced members.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Algeester, your interjections are not being taken.

Ms SIMPSON: Do your research. Get it right. Your reservations are wrong and I will correct them in detail.

I would love to address more of the issues and correct the mistakes and shoddy research of Labor members, but I will move on to the fact that we have also outlined a number of really important priorities with regard to women's economic security. Labor does not understand that gender equality requires women to have serious policies that address the gender pay gap and other areas that are undermining their ability to have financial security. This is a key focus of the \$20 million return to work package we have announced. With regard to the fact that women's economic security is a priority, we are working with women to roll out strategies that will help them overcome the gaps that undermine their ability to have full security and determination of their future so they can thrive. These matters are important ones that Labor did not address, but we are committed to addressing them.

I want to also, in the brief time I have remaining, address the multicultural community. I also call out those who do not understand how important it is that we back our diverse multicultural communities throughout Queensland, stand against racism and ensure we help people overcome social and economic barriers to full participation. We are all Australians together. We have to stand against those who seek to divide. We want social cohesion, where everyone has a right to thrive. We believe in aspiring communities where we as Australians work together—

(Time expired)

Debate, on motion of Ms Simpson, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.02 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Social and Affordable Housing



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (9.02 pm): It is a pleasure to lead off the batting on the adjournment tonight. I have noticed that the LNP are boasting about how many social and affordable houses they are going to build for Queenslanders, but it is going to be hard to live up to their boasting if they keep cutting housing projects. The Deputy Premier, through his decisions, has axed nearly 1,000 affordable homes in the backyards of LNP members. They can do this because the first bill that the LNP government passed gave the Deputy Premier the power to scrap or reduce affordable housing projects to which Labor had given the green light.

The LNP has cut affordable housing projects in their own backyards, including: 970 homes in Arundel Hills; 90 homes in Birtinya; 40 homes in Tewantin; and 73 homes in Redland Bay. At the same time they axed social and affordable housing projects, they axed the policy of buying hotels and unused aged-care accommodation places to help house vulnerable Queenslanders.

I have been at one of these reused facilities—the emergency housing facility at Rothwell operated by Vinnies and the department—and they are doing a tremendous job. By early August, 76 people had come through since opening, and 47 of these clients have subsequently sustained tenancies. They have provided over 7,000 bed nights since they opened 14 months ago. They have 21 clients at all times and they always have 100 per cent occupancy. It is an incredible success story that is possible only because the opposition leader and the member for Gaven made it happen by purchasing this unused facility. There will be no more success stories like this under the LNP—no more innovative purchases to help house vulnerable Queenslanders.

Another policy backflip by the LNP that is stripping out social and affordable housing opportunities is that they have ripped up any requirements for developers to build social and affordable housing projects even when they are supported by a public developer. I am talking about what the LNP has done to the Woolloongabba and Northshore Hamilton PDAs. The Deputy Premier said that the decision to axe these requirements for social and affordable housing reflects ‘the reality of commercial development’. The member for Clayfield said that these requirements were ‘undeliverable pipe dreams’ at Northshore Hamilton. How is it undeliverable to require the development of public land to include social and affordable housing? Where will the building of social and affordable homes end up if the LNP apply ‘the reality of commercial development’ to other housing projects?

Buderim Electorate, Events



Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.06 pm): I rise tonight to talk about two great events I have recently attended in my electorate of Buderim. On 16 August, a couple of Saturdays ago, we re-established the Buderim Street Party—a tremendous Buderim event that, unfortunately, has had a bit of a hibernation since COVID. The last one we held was in 2019. Through the hard work of the Buderim Lions, led by Mr Brian McBride, we re-established the Buderim Street Party this year. We had over 20,000 people visit the Buderim Street Party. I want to acknowledge the Buderim Mountain State School, because we used their school oval, and the work of their P&C. The Buderim Street Party committee did a mountain of work to ensure we delivered a safe and enjoyable night with food, music and fun. The entire community came together and it was great to see so many families enjoying a night out in Buderim.


We had a market stall, and I want to acknowledge my staff. Olivia from my office put together a market stall in my absence with over 3,000 show bags. My young fellow Alex, who is eight, said that my show bags were better than anything he got at the Ekka. I have to say that that was consistent feedback I received all night. In fact, a gentleman I was talking to on level 7 said that he has the times table on the back of his toilet door and he gets to see my head every time he goes in there, which is unfortunate for him.

I want to acknowledge the successful winner of the lolly jar guess, which was Sophie and her family. Well done, Sophie. Thank you to all of those who put on this tremendous community event. It is a testament to the sense of community that exists in Buderim that we are able to put on these events, but they do not happen without the hard work of volunteers like the Buderim Street Party committee led by Brian McBride and the Buderim Lions.

I also want to talk about the Buderim Foundation's 21st birthday celebration on Saturday, 23 August. The guest speaker was Reverend Tim Costello AO, who spoke about what it meant to have a sense of community. The message that struck me was 'Us, not I. We, not me.' He spoke about the cultures that exist elsewhere and how Buderim is unique when it comes to the sense of community that exists.

The Buderim Foundation is the embodiment of that culture. It is an entity that was established 21 years ago which basically takes in donations, invests those proceeds and then distributes the earnings from those investments to community groups. They have given out over \$2.3 million since they were established back in 2004, when those donations started to flow. I want to acknowledge the chair, Rick Woods, for his work. We received a \$1 million donation on Saturday night, which is a tremendous commitment to our local community. The Buderim Foundation have set the goal of \$2.1 million in donations over the next 21 weeks. No amount is too small. If anyone in our community would like to contribute to the important work of the Buderim Foundation, they can jump onto their website and donate and help them to continue the work of supporting our community organisations in Buderim.

PA Hospital, Spinal Injuries Unit

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (9.09 pm): The challenge for people with spinal injuries to recover is one of the greatest when it comes to health care. What we see in this state is a lack of concern and care from this government when it comes to making sure we have a purpose-built spinal injuries unit at the PA Hospital to service people from right across this state. It could be anybody with a spinal injury, from all walks of life. What they need is care and they need fast care. What we saw in the estimates process was an admission by the director-general, who revealed that right now 30 Queenslanders are waiting for a spinal bed at the PA unit.

I have firsthand experience of this. I visited John Connolly, former Wallabies coach, when he was a patient there. He was there for nine months. What was clear to me was that it was outdated, it needed work and it needed something much more fundamental. We as a Labor government—

Government members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those on the other side should just shut your trap and listen to something of—

Government members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: How dare you interject on something as serious as spinal injuries! Where is your conscience?

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Miller used unparliamentary language and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I will seek some advice. Member for Miller, in relation to the point of order, I ask you to withdraw that language but primarily on the basis that those comments were not directed through the chair and, if they were, they would be a lot more disorderly than otherwise. Would you withdraw those comments, please.

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to withdraw, Deputy Speaker. Many on the other side may have no social conscience or conscience about this, but the Labor side does. That is why we had a detailed business case completed on this. That came in October last year but has been ignored by all those interjecting, the health minister and this government. They are happy to put a billion dollars towards a stadium that was recommended by nobody, but they are not willing to give half a billion dollars for a purpose-built spinal injuries unit that would deal with the waiting list and would deal with people who need care.

Government members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: How dare they interject on a spinal injuries issue! It is shameful. You should all be ashamed of yourselves—through the chair. In the *Courier-Mail* we see not just John Connolly raising this issue. Dr Dinesh Palipana, one of Queensland's most respected doctors and advocates, himself a quadriplegic, went public saying that the unit must change after horror stories emerged—

A government member interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. You can interject all you like. Let's get the funding for the spinal injuries unit. That is what I say. That is what we need for Queenslanders. We have one of the highest rates of spinal cord injury in the country and this Crisafulli government callously ignores the needs of those who need care for their spinal injuries. They need it quickly because

the longer you wait the harder it is to recover. That is what we get from this government: a ward of horrors. It needs a purpose-built facility.

Government members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: All those people interjecting ought to be ashamed of yourselves. Go back to the bar tonight. That is where you have been, obviously.

Victory in the Pacific, 80th Anniversary Commemoration



Mrs POOLE (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.13 pm): ‘Fellow citizens, the war is over’—the famous statement made by former Australian prime minister Mr Ben Chifley to signify our victory in the Pacific on 15 August 1945. It was a day for celebration and it continues to be so.

On Friday, 15 August 2025, Townsville commemorated the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and Townsville turned out to celebrate the occasion with four days of events, including wreath-laying commemorations, a speech re-enactment, a community day, a parade, an aircraft flyover, a pilgrimage to the war cemetery and a VP80 Dinner Under the Stars in the magnificent setting of the Queens Gardens. We commemorated and celebrated with seven of our remaining veterans, aged from a sprightly 103 to a very young 99 years of age.

Almost one million Australians—men and women—served during the Second World War. They served with the armed forces, other supporting services like the merchant navy and the land army and contributed to the war effort in the workforce at home. Sadly, approximately 40,000 of our Australian service men and women did not return home. More than 17,000 of them lost their lives while fighting in the war against Japan.

This day is important to our great city, as Townsville was on the front line of Australia’s war effort in the Pacific. Our city served as a key military centre for the allied forces. Our involvement in this war cemented our city’s status as a garrison city. Today we are Australia’s largest garrison city and we are a proud garrison city. We have Lavarack Barracks and the RAAF base—major bases that recognise Townsville’s significance to our national military operations. Our involvement in the Pacific is far from words on a page. It lives on through the remaining pieces scattered throughout Townsville and it lives on through events such as VP80.

A lesser known quote from former prime minister Chifley’s speech is, ‘Let us remember those whose thoughts, with proud sorrow, turn towards gallant loved ones who will not come back.’ Eighty years later, we continue to echo these sentiments and we remember the courage and service of all of our veterans who have given so much in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions. Those who fought in the Pacific fought for our peace and our freedom. To those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those we remember on days like VP80: may they never be forgotten. To our veterans and our current serving men and women, we say thank you. Lest we forget.

Stretton Electorate, Badminton and Table Tennis



Mr MARTIN (Stretton—ALP) (9.15 pm): Tonight I rise to highlight the urgent need for dedicated and necessary badminton and table tennis facilities for the people of my electorate. Stretton is home to one of Queensland’s most vibrant and fastest growing multicultural communities. Many of our residents come from regions where badminton and table tennis are national sports, and their passion and ability is reflected in their extraordinary growth locally. Participation in badminton across Queensland has grown by 86 per cent over the past five years, while table tennis participation has grown by 69 per cent. This represents an extraordinary growth in two core Olympic sports.

Every week I see young people in my electorate play, train and compete in these sports, often in school halls and makeshift venues that fall well short of what is required. In June this year I wrote to the Minister for Sport to advocate for a dedicated facility with a focus on badminton and table tennis. My letter was supported by detailed research and letters of support from both the Queensland Badminton Association and Table Tennis Queensland. I thank the minister for his response, which pointed to the government’s \$250 million Games On! program; however, sadly, the criteria for that program are still under development and at present there are no infrastructure programs open to support the planning or construction of a new facility. The minister has certainly been quick to tell sporting organisations all over Queensland that he is open to any and all ideas, but it has been light on detail and we are less than seven years out from Brisbane 2032.


This is not just about sport; it is also about equity, recognition and opportunity. Our multicultural community in Stretton is driving the growth of badminton and table tennis in Queensland. An investment

in high-growth sports such as these must be part of our vision for 2032—not just more of the same for already well-funded sports.

The urgency has only increased following the 100-day review into Brisbane 2032. In a question on notice I asked where badminton and table tennis will now be staged, given that the original bid process in 2021 specified where they would be held; however, the 100-day review did not provide a location for these core Olympic sports and effectively buck-passed the responsibility to the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee—even though the organising committee is not responsible for funding or building infrastructure. That is the responsibility of the state government.

It is unacceptable that seven years out these sports still have no dedicated location—both for our games planning and for the thousands of Queenslanders who play these sports every week and hope to achieve greatness in Brisbane, Queensland in 2032. I again call on the government to work with the Queensland Badminton, Table Tennis Queensland and local stakeholders to support their vision and ensure badminton and table tennis receive the dedicated funding and certainty they deserve so that we can achieve gold in 2032.

Barron River Electorate

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (9.19 pm): Tonight I rise to share some great news and great wins that my team and I have had for the residents of Barron River. Some are big wins, like the funding for the Barron River bridge and the Smithfield mountain-biking trail. Some wins may seem small in reality but are huge for those whose lives are being impacted. One such win was achieved in helping two lovely constituents in my region, Cheryl and John, with a stolen licence plate concern that they had been trying to sort out for 12 months. It was causing them immense stress as the fines kept coming in, but my amazing team sorted it in a matter of weeks and cleared their name. Then there was the family in Holloways Beach who lost so much during the Jasper floods and were then going to be charged \$10,000 to \$30,000 by Ergon to fix a power pole on their property. Getting this fee waived was a huge win, as was getting an extension of the generators for the Kamerunga Villas, which are still on generator power 18 months after Jasper.


The Trinity Beach State School is another great story. This school community had been campaigning for five years for a new school fence to improve community safety, but it fell on deaf ears. My team campaigned for 10 months and we got this over the line last week, which was really exciting. Another proud win was the \$1.45 million investment into a second paediatric cardiologist and cardiology support services for Far North Queensland to support the amazing Dr Ben. That was thanks to the advocacy of local mother Tegan Catalano, who shone a light on the huge waitlist Far North Queensland families were facing. I was proud to help her.

Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre received a Skilling Queenslanders for Work grant. Sharing the news with their team—Prue, Alison and Philippa—left us all looking like someone was chopping onions nearby. It was a really beautiful moment. Much-deserving sporting clubs received grants such as the Cairns Wake Park, Marlin Coast football club, Stratford Dolphins Football Club and Pace Running. Another huge win was the funding to support the council to start major repairs from the Jasper floods that were neglected by the former government, including fixing up Lake Placid and a new bridge for Holloways Beach.

I could list many more local wins, but I only have three minutes. I want to thank the Premier and the ministers for their visits to Far North Queensland and for their help with so many issues that my team and I contact them about daily. Many stakeholders in our region say that they have never had so many visits from ministers, so thank you so much for caring about the regions.

People ask me all the time why I wanted to be a member of parliament. This is why. Fighting for funding and for outcomes for Far North Queensland is my job. As much of it is relentless and the mountain of problems left to us by the former government is huge, wins like these, big and small, are what make it all worthwhile. After 10 years of decline under Labor, we are 10 months into delivering for Queensland. I am proud of the work we have done to date, but there is a lot more to do. This is just the beginning and I am just getting warmed up.

Southern Group State Emergency Service

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.22 pm): I recently had the pleasure of meeting with the dedicated volunteers of the Southern Group State Emergency Service at their current depot in Richlands. This group, formerly based at Salisbury, was forced to relocate in early 2022 when their depot was resumed to make way for the Cross River Rail project. The Southern Group was moved to Orchard Road in

Richlands, co-locating with the South West Group. While Brisbane City Council staff have claimed the relocation came as a surprise, it is worth noting that, curiously, the South West Group's shed was expanded just prior to the move—expansion that coincidentally made it just large enough to accommodate the Southern Group's vehicles and equipment.

Council staff made multiple public comments that a new depot would be provided within the Southern Group's operational area, but years later those promises remain unfulfilled. What followed instead were mixed messages and contradictory claims. Some suggested a site was in the works; others cited financial constraints and implied that the current temporary solution may become permanent. This ongoing uncertainty has caused real damage. The lack of transparency, the increased travel time for volunteers and the relocation of the depot to the wrong side of the Oxley Creek catchment, in an area with known flood risks, have all contributed to a dramatic decline in morale and membership.

In 2021-22, the Southern Group had around 160 active members. Today fewer than 30 remain. The once thriving Wednesday and Thursday training groups have been disbanded. Compounding the issue is the current structure that places a paid council staff member with no prior SES or volunteer experience in charge as the local controller, leaving the remaining volunteers without a clear voice or pathway to raise concerns or seek change.

This is not how we should treat our emergency volunteers—people who give up their nights, weekends and holidays to keep our communities safe. They deserve better than broken promises, poor planning and silence in response to their concerns. It is time for the Brisbane City Council and the LNP government to step up, provide certainty, restore trust and commit to a permanent, properly located depot for the Southern Group SES. Our volunteers deserve nothing less.

Townsville, Youth Mental Health Support Services



Ms MARR (Thuringowa—LNP) (9.25 pm): Last week I stood with my community and my colleagues the members for Townsville and Mundingburra to launch a campaign that is deeply important and an urgent need to our region after a decade of inaction. Townsville is crying out for a dedicated youth mental health support service, and I will continue with determination for a positive outcome for our community. This community campaign is about giving our young people the support they need when they need it, right at home in North Queensland. Minister Tim Nicholls has already announced \$50 million to establish two new youth step-up step-down services in Queensland. One is confirmed for Rockhampton, but Townsville must be next. Our young people cannot be left behind.

In Thuringowa alone, almost 5,000 young people are aged between 16 and 21. Across the wider Townsville region, that number is over 19,000. That is a generation of young people who deserve access to mental health services close to home. Families in my community tell me the struggles they have had finding help and that they are desperate for options. With Labor in government for the last 10 years and not delivering, they often felt that, just because they lived in regional Queensland, the needs of their teenagers and young adults did not matter and they had no voice. That changed when they voted me in! I am proud to be their voice and to fight for what matters, and this matters.


The statistics agree with what I am hearing every day. Some 10 per cent of young people in my region are affected by ongoing mental health challenges. That is why we are fighting for a youth step-up step-down service in Townsville. This service would mean that young people at risk of crisis get 24/7 community-based support in a safe and stabilising environment. Consistently, families in our community share their thoughts and concerns on this issue with me, underscoring that this program would be a vital lifeline for them.

This service will provide a vital bridge for young people stepping down from acute hospital care or stepping up into more intensive community support to prevent hospital admission, giving them a safe, supportive place to transition back into the community. It ensures they continue to receive the care and guidance they need, reducing the risk of relapse and helping them regain confidence, independence and stability in their everyday lives.

I want to be clear: this is not just my fight; it is our community's fight. It is the fight of parents, carers, schools, health workers and young people themselves. Together we are standing up and saying loud and clear, 'Townsville is ready.' To the minister I say: the need in Townsville is urgent, the evidence is clear and the voices of our community are united, because at the heart of this campaign is a simple belief that every young person in Townsville deserves a chance to thrive. They deserve to feel safe, supported and hopeful about their future. We will not stop until Townsville has the mental health services it needs and deserves.

(Time expired)


Hill Electorate, Community Transport

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (9.28 pm): Tonight I rise to draw attention to the severe and growing crisis facing regional Queensland when it comes to community transport. In Brisbane, residents enjoy multiple transport options on trains and buses and can travel across the entire city for just 50 cents, getting easy access to every necessity and basic healthcare services. What a blessing having buses at their doorstep and trains running on frequent schedules. Meanwhile, in small rural towns like Mount Garnet and Ravenshoe residents are pleading for the most basic form of community transport not only to commute and go shopping but simply to attend vital medical appointments, access aged-care services or carry out everyday tasks that city residents take for granted.

In other parts of my electorate—Babinda, Innisfail and Tully—affordable, reliable transport services do not exist. Residents with chronic health conditions are missing essential appointments in rural and regional communities because they have no way of getting there. Aged-care and NDIS clients are burning through their packages just to pay for expensive transport, leaving little or nothing for their support services that are supposed to enhance their independence and quality of life. Low-income families are trapped without options, unable to access preventive care. The evidence is that this results in poorer health outcomes, more medical crises and greater reliance on overstretched hospital systems in regional Queensland.

To top it off, the transport department's failed tender process for community transport on the Cassowary Coast was a wasted opportunity. The department's model was unworkable, providers could not deliver and once again regional communities were left behind. There is a solution through the community bus service program announced in this year's budget. I am calling on the state government to act swiftly and direct TMR to engage with nominated community providers, which I have already supplied to the minister's office. These organisations—the Tully Support Centre, Babinda Taskforce and the Ravenshoe Community Centre—already understand local needs. They already have established a community relationship and are ready to deliver if they are properly resourced. The government must act now to fund and implement workable community transport solutions. This is about dignity, health and basic rights. Our regional communities deserve no less.

Victory in the Pacific, 80th Anniversary Commemoration

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.31 pm): Recently we commemorated the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Day, the day Japan announced its surrender on 15 August 1945. Tonight I rise to honour our Hervey Bay World War II veterans Herbert Gardner, Stanley Hanna, Ken Hayden, Keith Sander and Alan Williams. I would love to speak about each of these remarkable veterans. Unfortunately, time does not permit.

Keith Sander served in the Royal Australian Air Force No. 33 Squadron. He was unable to attend the VP Day commemoration due to ill health; however, Keith said he served in the flight crew that supplied fuel to the aircraft transporting the Japanese Lieutenant General Hatazo Adachi to Wewak, Papua New Guinea, and witnessed Adachi surrender his sword to Australian Army Major General Robertson, commander of 6th Division. I table a copy of the Hervey Bay RSL Sub Branch Inc. correspondence.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 13 August 2025, between members of the Hervey Bay RSL sub-branch, regarding surviving World War II veterans.

Alan Williams served in the Australian Army 2nd/25th Battalion. He is a remarkable and engaging man who recently celebrated his 102nd birthday. I attended his 100th birthday and witnessed Alan planting a native quandong tree in the Hervey Bay Botanic Gardens, commemorating his 100th birthday. In a world where the median duration of an Australian marriage is just over 13 years, Alan and Joan Williams were married for 80 years. Alan and Joan first met in 1944, when they were both in the Army and stationed in Western Australia. Alan said—

We saw a lot of each other over the next 12 months and right before I was about to be moved out to New Guinea I asked Joan if she would like to get married. I thought if we didn't we probably would never see each other again. She said yes, so we got married on 20th January 1945. Joan was then discharged from the Army and moved from Perth to stay with my family in Grafton until I got back in 1946.

The pair would eventually move to Ballina in the 1950s and become an integral part of the local community, opening the Ballina Players theatre group, which is now one of Australia's oldest amateur theatre companies. Alan said—

We did four major plays each year and eventually raised enough money to build a brand new brick theatre which is still going today.

In 1985 Alan and Joan were declared citizens of the year, and Joan was awarded an OAM on Australia Day in 2000. Joan passed away just shy of her 100th birthday. This evening I take the opportunity to thank our World War II veterans for their service. Lest we forget.

Honourable members: Lest we forget.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.34 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dametto, de Brenni, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young